

**2019 ACBF
Hall of
Fame
INDUCTEES**

Terry Thompson
(1984 - Ashtabula)

Mike Pape
(1995 - Conneaut)

Anthony Lyons
(1995 - Conneaut)

Pam Dreslinski
(2004 - Edgewood)

Jordan Cuddy
(2003 - Geneva)

Lou Bishop
(1958 - Grand Valley)

Jeff Fink
(1988 - Jefferson)

John Bradley
(1977 - Harbor)

Renee Freeman
(1999 - Pymatuning)

Ned Roach
(1971 - Pymatuning)

Kelly Tinney
(2003 - St. John)



**Ashtabula County
Basketball
Foundation
Awards Banquet and
Hall of Fame Induction
Sunday, April 7th
2019**

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

STAR BEACON

Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation

2019 Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Dinner
 Sunday April 7, 2019
 3:30 pm Doors open / 4 pm Dinner and Program
 New Leaf Event Center
 110 Gateway Ave - Conneaut, Ohio

Program

National Anthem	
Invocation	Pastor Scott Walsh
Welcome	Brad Ellis
Dinner	Waters Catering
Introduction of All-County First Teams and Coaches /ACBF	
POY nominees	Andy Juhola
ACBF HOF Inductees	Dave Miller

Board of Directors

Brad Ellis	President
Andy Juhola	Vice President
John Higgins	Secretary
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Al Goodwin	Director
Becky Olmstead	Director
Dawn Zappitelli	Director
Steve Kray	Director
Tim Mizer	Director
Ralph Turk	Director
Michael Bartone	Executive Administrator

Presentation of Awards

Edward Jones / David Flautt Scholarship	David Flautt
ACBF Coaches / Referees Award	John Higgins
ACBF Alumni Achievement Award	Ralph Turk
ACBF Officials Appreciation Award	Becky Olmstead
ACBF Coach of the Year (Girls)	Tim Mizer
ACBF Coach of the Year (Boys)	Al Goodwin
ACBF Player of the Year (Girls)	Doug Hladek
ACBF Player of the Year (Boys)	Bob Hitchcock
Closing Remarks	Brad Ellis

Trustees

Michael Joslin	Nicholas Iarocci
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Ashtabula County Coaches

School	Girls	Boys
Edgewood	Randy Vencill	John Bowler
Conneaut	Tony Pasanen	Tim Tallbacka
Geneva	Mike Hassett	Eric Bowser
Lakeside	Nicole Grimmett	Rob Pisano
Grand Valley	Bob McKinney	Justin Turk
Jefferson	Steve Locy	Dave Albert
Pymatuning Valley	Jeff Compan	Ryan Shontz
St. John	Nick Iarocci	Curtis Turner

ACBF HOF Class of 2019

Tony Lyons
Mike Pape
Renee (Freeman) Drake
Pam Dreslinski
Terry Thompson
Ned Roach

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Kelly Tinney-Malm
Jordan Cuddy
Jeff Fink
John Bradley
Lou Bishop

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ACBF HOF Inductees

Class of 2018

Steve Kray
Jessica Cancel
Al Sidbeck
Rick Berrier
Jim Pinney
Dan Coxon
Rod Brown
Jessica Olmstead
Bekki (Hamper) Starr
Wayne Games

Class of 2017

Carlos Aponte
Steve Carlson
Shelly Burns
Rob Ferl
Rhea (DeJesus) Greene
Nara (DeJesus) Skipper
Brian Turner
Alan Miller
Denny Sabo
Paul Erickson
Ron Weaver
Ken Taft

Class of 2016

Pete Candela
Dan Coxon
Kay Ann Fails
Kenneth Green
Boyd Griffith
Sam Hands
Terrence Hanna
Jemal Harris
Kelly Kapferer
Lori Korver
Brad McNeilly
Lou Pavolino
Al Runyan

Class of 2015

Dan Craft
Kelly Easton Zirzow
Krystal Henson Force
Doug Hitchcock
Jennifer Johnston Horner
John Kampf
Bill Kaydo
Kiki McNair
Bob Naylor
Dana Schulte
Ron Silvieus
Bob Spencer
Dave Tirabasso

Class of 2014

Jim Adams
Mike Blauman

Tim Bowler
Nadine Cox
Jonathan Freeman
Sean Freeman
Heidi French
Phil Garcia
Dave Golen
Ray Harriman
Clyde Koski
Eddie Kropt
Laura Silvieus
Jim Welty, Jr.
Jim Welty, Sr.

Class of 2013

Jim Gilbert
Steve Hanek
Jim Henson
John Higgins
Richard "Dick" Hill
Kelly Hitchcock
Tiffany Leonard
Carl McIlwain
Marianne Meola
Angela Miller
Tom Naylor
Hiram Safford
Al "Red" Schubert
Carl Stokes
Micky Zigmund

Class of 2012

Lori Belconis
Jim Chiacchiero
Dutch Cotton
Brad Ellis
Jon Hall
Gordon Hitchcock
Eugene Miller
Steve Oman
Lyle Pepin
Jeff Puffer
Jerry Puffer
Dave Sillanpaa
Charles Watson

Class of 2011

Bill Brosky
Jeff Cicon
Larry Cumpston
Chris Hammon
Kim Hitchcock
Jim Landis
Deora Marsh
Leo Mucci

Joe Rich
Tim Richards
Norm Urcheck

Class of 2010

David Benton
Russell Bethel
Donna Gregg
Heidi Litwiler
Maurice McDonald
Phil Miller
Jim Osborne
Ernie Pasqualone
Fred Scruggs
John Wheelock

Class of 2009

Jim Bradley
Bill Brainard
Kelly Henson
Scott Humphrey
Billy Johnson
Kelly Johnson
Randy Knowles
Larry Lattimer
Bruno Mallone
Bob Miller
Karl Pearson
Tom Ritari
Ken Smith
Marthella Spinneweber

Class of 2008

Ed Armstrong
Denny Berrier
Don Cannell
Tammy Church Hagstrom
Al Goodwin
Adam Holman
E.J. Kinleyside
Gary Kreilach
Chris Larick
Steve McHugh
Ron Richards
Joe Shantz
Chuck Stevens
Kim Triskett
Trixie Wolf

Class of 2007

Dale Arkenburg
Jim Dolan
Bob Fenton
Paul Freeman
Tom Henson
Tom Hill

Fred Hirsimaki
Jim Hood
Traci Hozian
Don Marsh
Robert Puffer
Pat Sheldon

Class of 2006

Di Anthony
Kelly Boggs
Jim Cordell
Dan Foster
Ronnie Hanson
Harvey Hunt
Jay McHugh
Ray Peet
Tonya Tallbacka
Eleanor Young

Class of 2005

Tammy Busser
Roberta Cevera
John Coleman
Shellie Crandall
Harry Fails
Chris Fitting
Henry Garvey
Charles Hirshey
Melody Holt
Randy Linsted
Richard Scribben
Frank Zeman

Class of 2004

Ange Candela
Jim Dodd
Andrew Isco
Andy Juhola
Anita Jurcenko
Chuck Naso
Sue Pokelsek
Frank Roskovics
Anita Tersigni
Bob Walters
Matt Zappitelli

Class of 2003

Al Bailey
Bob Ball
Ed Batanian
Flo Carey
Diane Davis
Andy Garcia
Gene Gephart
Jon Hall, Sr.
Beth Helfer
Bob Hitchcock
Bill Koval

ACBF Player of the Year Nominees

Conneaut



Ferl



Hagstrom



Ford



Condon

Edgewood



Kanicki



Eldred



Strang



Root

Jefferson

Geneva



Stoltz



Vencill



Roberts



Hall

Pymatuning Valley

Grand Valley



Accetola



Foltz



Artman



Cevera

St. John

Lyons had a stellar career at Conneaut as part of Big Three

BY CHRIS LARICK

sports@starbeacon.com

A short time after he finished his sixth-grade year at Southeast Elementary in Conneaut, Anthony (Tony) Lyons and his father were visited by Gary Coxon.

Coxon, the father of Dan Coxon, wanted Lyons to join his son and a group of other basketball players from Chestnut Elementary school on the seventh-grade basketball team at Conneaut.

Lyons, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame on April 7, remembers walking into the gym to meet with his new teammates for the first time.

“There weren’t a lot of African-American kids in Conneaut, and I was pretty tall,” Lyons said. “They probably said to themselves, ‘This dude is like Michael Jordan’ — until I took my first shot.”

That’s when his teammates found out that Lyons, who had always enjoyed football, didn’t know the first thing about basketball.

“I didn’t know the rules,” he said. “I was completely clueless. I didn’t even know how to dribble. It kind of came to me pretty quickly, but it took a lot of extra time.”

To expedite the process, his teammates suggested he shoot free throws underhanded, an experiment that failed.

Lyons learned that when he received the ball, he should get rid of it as soon as possible, preferably by not by shooting.

“I focused on rebounding



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Conneaut’s terrific trio, from left, Anthony (Tony) Lyons, Mike Pape and Dan Coxon, are pictured. Lyons and Pape will join Coxon in the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during the awards dinner on April 7.

and blocking shots,” he said. “I could jump a bit and was pretty quick.”

Lyons ended up scoring 1,026 points.

He, Coxon (1,065 points) and Mike Pape (1,166) became the first county trio of players in the same class at the same school to make the 1,000-point club.

That is still so and is unlikely to change.

They got plenty of help from the other Spartans at the time — Tom O’Connell, Chris Anthony, Jason Tharp, Nick Armeni, Joe Swigunski, Brent Kananen, Travis Hayes

and (as a junior and senior) Jeff Grubke.

But Lyons, Coxon and Pape were the headliners. Each was named first-team All-Ashtabula County and All-Northeastern Conference their last two years, when Conneaut went 19-1 in the 1993-1994 and 1994-1995 regular seasons.

Lyons’ high school basketball start was put on hold when he was diagnosed with mitral valve prolapse (leaky valve) in his heart.

Two weeks into the season, he was back on the court primarily on the JV team, and

as needed, went in during clean-up time for the varsity team.

Greg Mason was head coach for that Conneaut class for their freshman and sophomore seasons.

“Mr. Mason definitely played a big part in my development,” Lyons said. “He believed in me. He was tough, but definitely fair.”

During their junior and senior seasons, they dominated most of their opponents.

When they got to the tournament after Lyons’ junior season, the Spartans got a

taste of their own medicine, getting beaten badly by Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph.

Lyons said VASJ had many talented athletes who went on to careers at Division I schools.

In the next year of the tournament, Lyons recalls playing Cleveland Benedictine, another talented team.

“It was a difficult game, and compounded by the knowledge it was the last time I’d be suiting up

SEE **LYONS**, 16

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Pape enjoyed basketball experience at Conneaut

BY CHRIS LARICK

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Mike Pape has a message for high school athletes looking forward to college careers — enjoy your high school years, they'll be hard to match.

"It was a magical time," he said of his Conneaut High School years from 1991-95. "We had a great team and the NEC (North-eastern Conference) was a good league, still pretty competitive. (The schools) had stayed together so long and those coaches were still there. We'd have away games and (our fans) were still there.

"Every game had a wow factor. Every time I was with (my teammates) was a wonderful experience. It was a time to be remembered, such a happy place to be in."

The Spartans were competitive in Pape's freshman and sophomore years, but really hit their stride when he was a junior and senior.

Their lone loss in the

1993-94 regular was to Harvey and they went unbeaten in the

1994-95 regular season for a 39-1 record over two years, pre-tournament.

Those Conneaut teams were led by a triumvirate of 1,000-point scorers.

Pape, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame on April 7, scored 1,166 points, Dan Coxon had 1,065

and Tony Lyons finished with 1,026.

But there were several other key players, including Tom O'Connell, Chris Anthony, Jason Tharp, Nick Armeni, Joe Swigunski, Brent Kananen, Travis Hayes and, as a senior, Jeff Grubke, who contributed significantly.

"(Grubke) was just a nice, another nice

addition to our team," Pape said. "Every little bit helps."

It all started with several of those players at Chestnut Elementary School in Conneaut under Dave Anthony, Chris' dad.

When the tall, athletic, but new-to-basketball Lyons joined the group in the seventh grade, the ceiling was raised.

"When (Lyons) joined us, we were happy to have him," Pape said.

When the group moved to Conneaut High School, it came under the coaching of Greg Mason.

Pape got some starting time as a freshman and the others gradually worked in.

By the time Mason

SEE **PAPE**, 16



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Mike Pape, along with his teammates, enjoyed a magical run with the Conneaut Spartans boys basketball teams in the mid-1990s. Pape scored 1,166 career points for the Spartans. Pape will join the Ashtabula County Basketball Hall of Fame during the induction and awards dinner on April 7.

Congratulations to our son Michael Pape,
and all of the 2019 Inductees!




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PV grad Drake grew up with basketball in her genes

BY CHRIS LARICK

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It would be wrong to say that Renee (Freeman) Drake was born with a silver spoon in her mouth.

But it wouldn't be too much of an exaggeration to say she was born with a basketball in her genes.

Drake's father, Paul Freeman, was an excellent player at Pymatuning Valley, coached for many years and has already been selected to the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame. Her three brothers all played basketball (well) and Renee grew up watching two of them play.

"Larry Bird was a household name," Freeman said. "I don't remember basketball ever being introduced to me. It was just always there. It was a way of life in our family. I was 5 years old when my brother, Sean, began his freshman year at PV. The teams he played on were very successful.

"He was a standout player himself and is also in the ACBF Hall of Fame. The games were exciting. The atmosphere was exciting. Watching my brother and the PV Lakers compete and succeed was super exciting. It drew me in. Sean was my athletic idol growing up. I wanted to be like him. So naturally, once the



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pymatuning Valley graduate Renee (Freeman) Drake, back left, is pictured with her husband, Jason and four children, Addison (9), Stevie (7), Sawyer (4) and Bailey (3). She will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during the banquet ceremony on April 7.

school offered basketball in the fifth grade, there was no doubt that I was going to play and never look back."

It seems to follow that Drake became an outstanding player herself, leading to her induction into the ACBF Hall of Fame on April.

7, joining her father and brother.

In the sixth grade, the Lakers began to play competitively under coach Dave Roberts. A successful team at that point, they had won a few tournaments. Paul Freeman led the seventh and eighth-grade

teams his daughter played on, continuing the coaching he had been giving her since she was very young.

"My father lives and breathes fundamentals," Drake said. "My teammates to this day still talk about him pounding the fun-

damentals in us. You weren't allowed to join practice until you had conquered the left-handed layup correctly.

"My dad made me the basketball player I was. He taught us the fundamentals very early on. He taught my brothers and I how to play the game right. (We spent) many hours in the gym with him. No doubt he was the best coach I had. Maybe more importantly he instilled in us a competitive edge, hustle, passion and a refuse-to-lose attitude."

The love for basketball extended throughout the whole family.

"My mom (Evelyn) also loves basketball and has always been a die-hard Cavs fan," Drake said. "Girls didn't play basketball when she was in high school. I bet she would have played. Even though she never had a chance to play, she always supported us and was one of our biggest fans in the stands."

At 5-foot-10 by her freshman year, Drake played the post for the majority of her high-

school career. But in her senior year, with height in Julie Bentley and Autumn Sevich in addition to Drake, she was pulled out onto the wing as a guard."

The Lakers became a very good team, bordering on the great. They certainly had a great team in 1996-97, her sophomore year in going undefeated during the regular season and finishing 21-1, 9-0 in the East Suburban Conference for the first of two straight years.

In her sophomore year, key teammates included Marisa Jenkins at point guard; Roberta Janowski, guard; Jessica Burlingham, center and Erica Pashley, guard.

In what may be a first for Ashtabula County girls basketball, six players went on to play sports in college.

Drake, who averaged 10.3 points and 10 rebounds that year, played basketball and softball at Geneva College. Jenkins, who averaged 10 points, six assists and

SEE **DRAKE**, 17

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Dreslinski first Edgewood female to score 1,000 career points

BY CHRIS LARICK

sports@starbeacon.com

More and more these days, high school athletes are encouraged to specialize in one sport.

Count 2004 Edgewood graduate Pam Dreslinski among those who would disagree with that idea.

Dreslinski, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame on April 7, figures she gained a lot by being a three-sport athlete.

“Softball gave me the opportunity to travel all over the country, eat different foods, meet different people and I am forever appreciative of that,” she said. “My game was representative of me being a three-sport athlete in high school.

Volleyball gave me agility and bounce, basketball gave me swagger and confidence.”

Like most athletes who became high school stars, Dreslinski started sports early.

“Any sport that had a ball involved, I wanted to play,” she said. “I started playing by drib-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Edgewood graduate Pam Dreslinski (right) is pictured with her wife, Jo. Dreslinski will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Hall of Fame during the awards dinner on April 7.

bling in between chalk lines my sister and I drew in my driveway when I was around 6 years old.

“Then my dad installed a basketball hoop and I played with

my family. I started organized basketball at the YMCA around third or fourth grade. My coach was John Bowler, the current boys basketball coach at Edgewood. From there, I played on a fifth- and sixth-grade travel team that my mom coached. Both were really great coaches, taught the fundamentals, but also kept the game fun.”

When she reached high school, Dreslinski played volleyball, basketball and softball — starting on the varsity

team, and was the ACBF Player of the Year.

Not blessed with great height, Dreslinski played point or shooting guard, depending on the year. Though listed at 5-foot-8 on the basketball roster, she was only 5-5 in high school. She has since gained an inch and can now boast being 5-6.

During her years at Edgewood, the Warriors were pretty much a .500 team in a the NEC dominated by Jefferson and Geneva.

“The two games that come to mind when I think of my career were both during my senior year,” Dreslinski said. “I will always remember the night I scored 1,000 points — the first female at Edgewood to ever do so. It was a huge accomplishment for me to be the first. It was a home game, and the entire gym was packed with friends, family and a lot of the student body who rooted me and my team on. They stopped the game and my parents came down onto the court, which was a special moment.

“Another memory was when we played Jefferson at home. They notoriously had a great group of athletes, and beat us every year, except for the time they didn’t. From what I remember, and what my mom likes to tell strangers, Trish, my sister who was a fresh-

man and playing varsity with me, launched the ball from out of bounds down the court to me in full stride. I stepped back to the 3-point line in the corner and drained the game winner.”

Dreslinski finished with 1,224 points in her career, 13th among all county girls in a recent tabulation.

Despite her talent in basketball, she was an even better softball player, and heavily recruited in that sport.

“I verbally committed to Hofstra University in March of my junior year to play softball,” she said. “I would have loved to play basketball in college, but was offered a full scholarship to play softball at the Division I level.”

She enjoyed a successful softball career at Hofstra, graduating with a bachelor of arts in psychology and added a master’s in education.

“After Hofstra, softball remained an important part of my life. I was a graduate assistant/assistant coach at the Division III level,” Dreslinski said. “I coached travel softball for eight years, many of the teams from Ashtabula County. I gave private hitting lessons for about six years. I found out that one of my passions is teaching and guiding

SEE **DRESLINSKI**, 18

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Ashtabula grad Thompson recalls memorable Harbor games



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ashtabula High School graduate Terry Thompson (32) is shown going up for a shot against Harbor High during a boys basketball game. Thompson will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Hall of Fame during the awards dinner on April 7.

BY CHRIS LARICK
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The Northeastern Conference was so competitive during the early 1980s that the Harbor Mariners went 49-16 over a three-year span and made the regionals one year without a single NEC championship.

So it's not so much of an oddity that the Ashtabula Panthers had a group of players coaches drooled over in 1983-1984 but who failed to win a title. That occurred because Madison beat the Panthers in the final game of the season to claim the title.

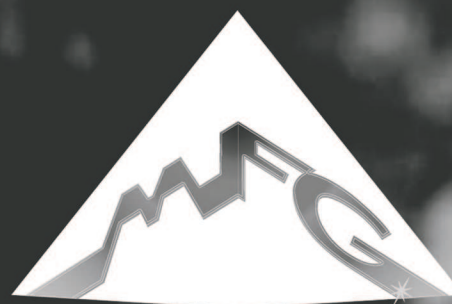
Terry Thompson, Terry Hanna, Louis Taylor, John Marsh and then-junior Carlos Aponte all played for that Panther team. Aponte is

already a member of the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame.

Thompson will join him this year. Thompson had come up through the Ashtabula system, playing for coach Joe Rich in the seventh grade, along with Milton Bunch, Robert Gray, Louie Doyle and Keith LaDu. That group moved on to play under the coaching of Roby Potts in the eighth grade.

Getting his height early, topping out at 6-foot-2, Thompson played center on those junior high school teams. He played for Lynn Altonen as a freshman before ACBF Hall of Fame coach Bob Walters moved him to guard as a sophomore

SEE **THOMPSON**, 18



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1948 - 2018

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Hall of Fame Inductees & Award Winners.*

PV's Roach prioritized basketball in high school

BY CHRIS LARICK

sports@starbeacon.com

Once upon a time, near here on the shores of Lake Erie, college sports were contested.

Those were the days when the Kent State Ashtabula Campus boasted athletic teams and among its offerings were baseball, basketball, cross country, tennis and golf.

A long time ago, those contests, played by many but attended by few, were suspended by the administrators who ran the Kent State system.

For people like Ned Roach, a 1971 Pymatuning Valley graduate who benefited greatly from their presence, that's a shame.

"I think it's terrible that they don't have sports offerings," said Roach, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame on April 7.

"That's what attracted me to go to school there.

"I went there two years basically for free. They were offering grants to some athletes. You didn't have to pay them back. (The grants covered) tuition and books with a little left over for living expenses. It was a nice little scholarship, basically two years of free education."

Some of the best athletes from the county played for the KSU-Ashtabula teams. Just in basketball, four players — Billy John-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ned Roach is pictured with his wife, Jean. The Pymatuning Valley graduate will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during the awards dinner on April 7.

son, John Wheelock, Bill Kaydo and now Roach — have made the ACBF Hall of Fame.

Growing up in Andover, Roach learned to play basketball and baseball when he was 9, coached by Frank Mason, Bill French, Ross Boggs and his older brother, Tom.

"They had a strong positive influence on me," Roach said. "Little League baseball practice and open gym basketball practice as a youngster were always fun and the fundamentals were always taught. These coaches taught the spirit of competition and sportsmanship and were an extension of everybody's parent. They cared and to this

day I still think of them and others that were involved."

Roach played football his freshman and senior years in high school, but made basketball his priority sport.

"I loved the game of basketball and would practice all year long," he said.

When he started organized basketball in the seventh grade at PV, Les Chaney was his coach.

"As a three-year varsity starter in high school and a two-year starter in college, most of my teammates changed each year," Roach said.

"Some were older, some were younger and some were classmates. At 5-10, I played point guard and my job was to

run the offense and be the coach on the floor.

"I liked to get the ball to the shooters, and there were a host of them throughout the years I played high school and college:

Bobby French, Craig Readshaw, Billy Johnson, John Wheelock, Bill Kaydo, John Colson, George Bucko and Al Landphair, just to name a few. Special high school teammates were Ray Sheets, Kim Mason, Carl McIlwain, Mike Bittikofer and Dave Malyk. These guys always encouraged me and practiced hard."

Roach felt blessed to be coached by two ACBF Hall of Fame coaches — Bob Hitchcock in high school and Ed Armstrong in college.

"Both were role models as a coach, parent, husband, father, friend and a man," Roach said. "Basketball and their players were always special to them."

In Roach's senior year, 1970-1971, the Lakers went 9-9 in the county and NEC, and won the sectional championship after an 88-75 upset victory over second-seeded Newton Falls. Roach recorded 17 assists and Readshaw put in 28 points. Hitchcock commended Roach after the game for "an outstanding floor game." PV lost to Champion, which went to state and finished fourth that year.

"The NEC was a very competitive league back then and most of the schools were bigger than PV," Roach said. "We held our own and competed. My sophomore year at Kent-Ashtabula, we were 12-4 and shared the KSU Regional Campus League Championship.

"Jefferson was always a rivalry game and both games my senior year were special. They had a very talented team and defeated Ashtabula (the league leader) twice that year on the eve of playing PV for both games. We were at our best and defeated Jefferson both times. The KSU Regional Campus League championship game was special in 1973 as well. We were short-handed and outmanned but fought the whole game to win it on a

last shot by John Colson and a defensive stop. It was very exciting."

Roach's best season was his senior year when he ranked 13th the county in scoring with a 12.83 point-per game average. More impressively, he recorded 11.47 assists per game (241 total assists), including a game-high 17, and shot 85 percent from the foul line. Those last two statistics were the best for any player for any season. His career high-school scoring was 632 total points, an average of 10.89 per game.

After his senior season, Roach was named second-team All-Ashtabula County, and second-team All-NEC, in addition to honorable mention All-State Class AA.

He was also honored with the team captain and Most Valuable Player Award and was a Hoyle Basketball Tournament participant. At KSU-Ashtabula, he was selected by Armstrong for the 1971-1972 and 1972-1973 Co-MVP Award winners.

Roach drew limited interest from colleges like Kent State main campus, West Point and Marquette, but pretty much had Slippery Rock State (Pa.) and KSU-Ashtabula to choose from. He feels fortunate to have chosen the latter. After two years there, he trans-

SEE **ROACH**, 18

Tinney learned basketball fundamentals at early age

BY CHRIS LARICK

sports@starbeacon.com

Chuck and Linda Tinney were not parents who believed in pampering their daughters.

Kelly and Kaitlyn learned to play sports, especially basketball. And they learn to play the proper way.

“When I was a young girl, my parents put a cement pad and basketball hoop in our backyard for my sister and I to practice on,” said Kelly Tinney-Malm, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame on April 7. “For the record, unlike other kids who had an adjustable hoop to play on, my dad refused a hoop like that. It didn’t matter how tall I was, I would learn to shoot on a regulation hoop — all these things made a difference in my performance.

“As I grew up, I played basketball with the guys in the neighborhood and my dad. My dad also took me to his weekly basketball games with guys at his work. All the guys did not treat me like I was fragile. They pushed me around and got mad if I scored. I learned quickly how to push back and be tough, playing with those guys.”

Many kids might have rebelled at such tactics. The Tinney girls thrived on them, recognizing Chuck Tinney for the great athlete he was — and still is, according to Kelly. He also knew how to coach young athletes.

“My dad and I would spend hours in the backyard or at the gym working on basic fundamentals, he showed me drills that I could and did



RAPID PHOTO

St. John-St. Paul graduate Kelly Tinney-Malm is pictured with her husband, Josh and “kids” (from left) Gus-gus, Lullabelle and Carver. Tinney-Malm will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation during the awards dinner on April 7.

run daily,” Kelly said. “I spent hours a day practicing — I even remember shoveling the basketball court off so I could practice in the winter.

“I’d practice the skills my dad showed me, things like dribbling and shooting left-handed, shooting with your elbow in, ball above the head, left hand as a guide or faking and taking the baseline. I’d practice myself, practice against my dad and then show my mom what I could do.”

As Tinney-Malm, a 2003 St. John graduate, remembers, the lessons she learned didn’t go unnoticed in the St. John community, a school she said she was blessed to attend.

“I doubt that he remembers this, but when I was in junior high, Sheriff Billy Johnson (who also happens to be my family life-long neighbor) was the head boys

basketball coach at SJP,” Tinney-Malm said. “After everyone’s seasons had wrapped up, there was an awards banquet at our school.

“While he was delivering awards to the boys on his team, he asked me to stand up. He said, ‘Gentlemen, my word of advice for you is to practice the way that girl does. I watch her every day, snow, rain, shine practicing in her backyard. She’s out there, in season or offseason, making herself a better player and athlete.’ I was probably embarrassed at the time, but reflecting back, playing basketball was really what my childhood and teen years was about.”

Even the best teacher can’t teach a reluctant student much. The Tinneys were willing learners.

Tinney-Malm started playing organized sports at

a young age and eventually became the linchpin — a 5-foot-11 forward and off-guard on a St. John team that had been mired in the depths of losing for years and became a winner.

She also played some point guard. People took notice. Fans started going to games they previously avoided like the plague. The Heralds drew more interest as her sister, Kaitlyn joined her as a starter. As a freshman, Kaitlyn was a key contributor during Kelly’s senior year.

“It was the best year of my sports career, having my sister start with me on the volleyball and basketball courts. By all accounts, she is the better athlete of the two of us,” Tinney-Malm said.

St. John was coached at the time — and still is — by Nick Iarocci.

Even then, though, she was

being coached every day by someone without the formal title.

“My parents sacrificed a lot so I could play,” Tinney-Malm said. “Despite the coaches I had, my dad was the one coach who provided me with a strong foundation of fundamentals. He, along with my mom, watched every game, and most times practice as well, and every time my dad found at least one thing I needed to work on — and trust me, we worked on it. It didn’t matter if I scored 30 points that game— there was something I could do better.

“My mom’s role in the equation was to tell me to be tough, and if I wanted to be the best, I had to work harder than anyone else. That’s important because there were times when I cried or was frustrated and could have walked away.”

The Heralds became a competitive team during Tinney-Malm’s years.

“There were a lot of great games that come to mind,” she said. “I remember games where our team was not suppose to win or hadn’t beat that particular team in years, and we’d win. Maybe the most special game was the game where I scored my 1,000th point. It was against Edgewood High School. I remember getting the assist from my sister. When I scored, the ref stopped the game and handed me the ball to take to my parents, who were both (of course) sitting in the stands.

“That game and scoring that 1,000th point was not

SEE **TINNEY**, 19

Cuddy's love for basketball started in her youth

BY CHRIS LARICK

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Gene Gephart remains one of the best-known names in athletics ever in Ashtabula County.

Though Gephart, a member of the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame's first class, died a few years ago, the way he influenced the game of basketball in this county continues to pop up.

On April 7, when Jordan Cuddy, Geneva class of 2003, will be inducted into the ACBF Hall of Fame, few in the crowd will be aware of Gephart's influence on Cuddy's life.

It's sort of like the nursery rhyme "The House that Jack Built." Had Cuddy not had a good relationship with Gephart, he wouldn't have recommended his college alma mater, DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, to her.

Had he not done so, she would probably never have heard of the school, let alone go there.

Had she not gone there, she probably would not now have the acclaimed career she does. But that's getting ahead of the story.

Cuddy's earliest memories of basketball came while attending her dad's pickup games at Geneva Elementary in addition to the practices her father coached in several sports.

"I loved being in the gym or on the field," Cuddy said. "I loved just watching."

It wasn't long until she started playing sports herself, mainly basketball. Her father put a hoop in the family driveway and there



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jordan Cuddy (left) is pictured with her partner, Kathryn Ferguson. Cuddy, a Geneva graduate, will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Basketball Hall of Fame during the awards dinner on April 7.

was no stopping her.

"I would open up the back door of our van and blast some music and shoot for hours, begging my brother, Aaron, or dad to play with me," Cuddy said. "When the seasons changed, we'd play nerf basketball inside. My parents added on a great-room with high ceilings and we would play this nerf basketball game we called 'Jungle Ball' with our neighbor (Pat Stocker) ... we all had bumps and bruises and rug burns from playing for hours."

From there, it was on to the YMCA for organized basketball. The 'Y' had co-ed teams at first. When enough girls showed up to have a girls league, Cuddy, Kim Rihn from Ashtabula and Kara Kreiser from Edgewood

stayed in the boys league, playing there through the sixth grade.

Meanwhile, Cuddy was also playing in the intramurals league her dad coached at ACES (Ashtabula Catholic Elementary School) for fourth-to-sixth graders, something she had been doing since the second grade.

"Initially it was intimidating playing with the older girls," Cuddy said. "But playing against older girls and sometimes boys advanced my growth. That was a lot of fun."

By the time she was in the seventh grade at St. John, Cuddy was playing four quarters for the seventh-grade team and one for the eighth-graders.

"Then my dad, who was my coach at the time, got an

'anonymous' letter (though we are pretty sure we know who sent it) that someone was counting my quarters," Cuddy said. "I remember my dad kept quite an accurate count so I wouldn't have to sit out quarters toward the end."

Cuddy played her junior high school years at St. John, at the time coached by her dad and Tony Silva, a family friend and, basically, an uncle to her.

"I had some really great coaches in a lot of the sports I played," she said, though she remembers a time she didn't appreciate them.

"I knew (my father and Tony Silva) quite well, and I was a grumpy teenager," Cuddy said. "You could say we had our fair share of blow-ups, and I did my fair

share of sprints. Our team at St. John in seventh and eighth grade only had eight of us on the team."

At St. John, Cuddy played with teammates Kelly Tinney, who will also be inducted into the ACBF Hall of Fame on April 7, Aimee Lennon, Jordan Giangola, Jenna Sharkey, Caitlyn Mackey, Heather Wallace and Randi Bates.

Though she played at St. John in junior high school, Cuddy had her eye on playing at Geneva in high school.

There she joined a quality group that included ACBF Hall of Famers Rhea DeJesus at point guard, Heidi Dragon at guard, Alisha Sturkie and Kaysha Coy at forwards and Shelley and Melissa Vandervort at guards. Point guard Emily Gerkin, Guard Alexis Koravich and forward Amy Case came on her last two years. Cuddy, who stood 5-foot-7, played shooting guard.

The Eagles were coached by recently-retired Nancy Barbo, headed for the ACBF Hall of Fame when she is eligible. After Cuddy's freshman year at Geneva, the Eagles were moved up to Division I, making their tournament task difficult.

Of the high school games, two stand out in her memory. The first was a Geneva vs. Edgewood contest.

"The second game of my high school career," Cuddy said. "We won and I had 31 points, including seven 3-pointers which I believe could still be a tied record today."

Then, there was the Jefferson game her sophomore year.

Fink, Cleveland Cavaliers grew up together

BY CHRIS LARICK

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Jeff Fink and the Cleveland Cavaliers were born together, in 1970, so he can be excused for thinking of the Cavaliers as playmates.

“I’m told by my mom that my first exposure to basketball was watching the Cleveland Cavaliers, practically from birth (the Cavaliers inaugural season was in 1970, the same year I was born),” Fink said. “Apparently, I would run up and down our hallway dribbling the basketball, pretending I was in the Cavaliers games.”

By the time he was in the fifth grade, Fink, a 1988 Jefferson High School graduate who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame on April 7, was playing basketball on Saturday mornings in a fifth- and sixth-grade league at Jefferson High School.

“As I recall, the play on the court was not very organized; it was basically a pack of kids following the ball all over the court,” Fink said. “I also remember playing a lot of basketball in elementary school gym class.

“I’m sure the reason for that was because my gym teacher was then-Jefferson High School head basketball coach Rick Nemet. I remember coach Nemet telling me I showed some promise and that I should focus on basketball. I tried to do that. I loved playing pickup basketball anywhere and everywhere I could. My first ‘real’ games were playing seventh- grade basketball for Jefferson.”



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Jeff Fink, back left, is pictured with his wife, Tasha and children, Hayden and Daria. Fink, a Jefferson graduate, will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during the awards dinner on April 7.

Fink became the recipient of an occurrence loved by basketball coaches, but not so much by mothers buying clothing for their sons — the growth spurt. As his mother has told him, he grew four inches the summer before his freshman year. While in junior

high, Fink had been just a bit taller than average. After the spurt, he was the tallest in his class. By his senior season, Fink was playing almost exclusively at the center position, standing 6-foot-7. He eventually topped out at 6-8 his sophomore year in college.

At Jefferson, he started games with teammates Chris Ostrander, Drew Bragga, Billy Burnett and Greg Ashley. That cast changed completely in his sophomore year when he was joined by Matt Bragga, Matt Burnett, Randy Banks, Tom Koskinen and

Dwyane Johnson as starters and sixth men.

The Falcons struggled a bit in those two years. Fink remembers the team going 6-14 his junior and 4-16 his senior seasons.

Despite the Falcons’ record, there were high points for Fink and his teammates, including a victory over Pymatuning Valley his junior year, a season when most of the great players he enumerated earlier were also juniors.

“The single game I remember the most was a victory we had my junior season against a great Pymatuning Valley team,” Fink said. “They named the game the ‘Miracle on South Poplar Street’ (where Jefferson High School was located),” he said. “We were down 23 in the first half, but came back to win the game in OT, 63-62. That PV team had Doug Bryan, Doug Hitchcock, Jason Poole, Rod Brown, Sean Freeman and Steve Oman.

“I believe that was the only time we beat PV during my time at Jefferson. It was a crazy game. I remember the home fans being absolutely nuts. I couldn’t hear a thing on the court. It was pure pandemonium when we won. I didn’t

SEE FINK, 20

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Harbor's Bradley stood out for play on court, positive attitude

BY CHRIS LARICK

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Harbor's John Bradley had the misfortune of playing high school basketball when his team's archival, Ashtabula, had a powerhouse and other Northeastern Conference teams like Geneva weren't far behind.

Though the Mariners didn't claim any conference championships during Bradley's era, they enjoyed the biggest upset — dumping the powerful Ashtabula Panthers in the sectional tournament at Warren Western Reserve in 1977.

With a squad that featured stars like Tom Hill, Deora Marsh, David Benton, Perry Stofan, Lou Murphy, Scooby Brown, Hank Barchanowicz and Roger Ball, the Panthers were heavily favored. Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame coach Bob Walters was enjoying his best years then.

"Ashtabula was a great team with great athletes," said Bradley, who will be inducted into the ACBF Hall of Fame on April 7. "They were a better team than us. But they got outthustled and outplayed. That was the most exciting game I ever played in."

Most of the Panther stars were still a year away from their peak, the senior year that ended with domination over most of its opponents, an 18-3 record and a Northeastern Conference championship.

Bradley was a standout on a Harbor team that could rise to the occasion and defeat strong Geneva or Conneaut



PHOTO SUBMITTED

John Bradley, a standout at Harbor High School, will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during the awards dinner on April 7.

teams or fall to Ashtabula twice in the regular season. Perhaps the explanation lies in the overall competitiveness of the NEC in that duration, a period when there didn't seem to be any weak teams in the area.

Bradley played all four years at Harbor, starting his junior and senior seasons.

He averaged 24 points per game and set the school-scoring record with 44 in a game against Madison. The Mariners needed all of those points in nipping the Blue Streaks, 84-82.

Bradley was a first-team All-Ashtabula County and All-NEC selection as a senior, when he was named Player of the Year.

"The thing I liked most about John was his positive attitude," said his coach,

Ed Armstrong. "He never let anything bother him. He was an absolute pleasure to coach."

Bradley grew up playing football and basketball with his brother, William, and nephews, Max and Mark Holman, among others.

He loved the Cleveland Browns at the time and still does.

"My brother James (inducted into the ACBF Hall of Fame in 2009) was a big part of my success," Bradley said. "I was a sophomore when he was a senior. He's why I tried to get better and better."

When he was in the fifth grade, Bradley began playing organized basketball at Washington Elementary under coach Richard Bryant.

"I was one of the top players and was having fun,"

he said. "We were decent, probably 50-50 (in wins and losses). We had Jack Carson and Rob Hopkins. I was one of the taller players, so I played center."

Bradley moved on to Columbus Junior High under Frank Knutson, playing center and some forward.

"I thought (Knutson) was exceptional," he said. "I learned a lot from him."

In the eighth grade, he played for Robert Potts. Among his teammates were Terry Lyons, Randy Jones, Brad Short, Mark Johnson and Marc Pope.

"Terry Lyons (Wash Lyons' brother) was a good ball player," Bradley said. "I was right behind him."

As a freshman, Bradley moved to Harbor High

School. He played on the freshman team, coached by ACBF Hall of Fame coach John Higgins.

When he became a sophomore, Bradley moved to varsity, playing mostly JV under coach Bob Short.

He played varsity the last six games of that season.

In his junior and senior years, Bradley was coached by Armstrong, another ACBF Hall of Fame coach.

"Ed was a good coach," Bradley said. "He got on us. He pushed defense a lot. Our offense came, but he coached us to play defense. We were a decent team. We were fighters; we hung in there."

Bradley played forward and sometimes center on those Mariner teams, although Pope played a lot of center. At the time, the NEC was filled with good teams, including Ashtabula, Geneva, Riverside, Conneaut and Madison.

"It was a battle between Ashtabula and Geneva," Bradley said. "Geneva always gave us a battle. They had Brad Ellis. Ashtabula had Tim Bowler, Tom Hill and David Benton. They had a great team my senior year."

The Mariners countered with Randy Jones, Short, the Holman twins (Max and Mark), Jim Davis, Mark Johnson, Darrell Sargent, Joe Chiacchiero, Cleo Saddler and Tim Givens.

Bradley also played defensive end and tight end at Harbor.

"I was good," he said. "I thought they could have

Bishop played on record-setting 1956-57 GV basketball team

BY CHRIS LARICK

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Those who knew Lou Bishop agree on at least one thing — he had a big heart.

Paula Bishop, widowed from Lou at too young an age, remembers that Bishop would always kiss her good-bye when he left for work in the morning.

“One day he left, then turned around and came back,” she said. “He said, ‘I forgot to kiss you goodbye.’”

There came a day too soon when Lou didn’t go to work.

He dropped dead of a heart attack at the age of 40 — nearly 40 years ago.

Unknown to all, Bishop’s big heart was faulty, something that had gone unnoticed during physicals for athletic events and before he entered the Army Reserves right out of high school.

Bishop was one of the best athletes at Grand Valley High School in the late 1950s.

The school didn’t offer football until several years later than that, but Bishop excelled in basketball and track.

The 1956-1957 Mustangs team went 21-2, the best record in school history, winning the Ashtabula County championship.

The two best players on that team, Jim Dodd, who was inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame in 2004, the second year of inductions, and Bishop were juniors.

The graduation of key seniors from that group kept the Mustangs from repeating the following year.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The late Lou Bishop (right) will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during the awards dinner on April 7. Bishop was a key player on the Mustangs’ 21-2 school-record 1956-57 team, which also won the Ashtabula County championship.

Grand Valley was coached by William Searcy at that time and included, in addition to Dodd and Bishop, Bill Shipman, Bill Whitten, Norman Huisinger, Kelton Slane, Roger Gaede, Dick Allen, Bud Brehm and Joe Shukys.

Bishop will join his teammate and best friend, Dodd, in the ACBF Hall of Fame on April 7 at Conneaut’s New Leaf Center.

A four-year varsity letterman in basketball and track, Bishop was chosen All-Ashtabula County second team as a junior and first team as a senior.

He totaled 790 points for his career, 319 of them (18 per game) as a senior. He is

already a member of the GV Hall of Fame.

For his part, Dodd held the school record, and for many years, the county record, in scoring with 1,377 points.

“We were best friends through grade school and high school,” Dodd said recently of Bishop. “We went into the army (reserves) together.”

In fact, an entire group of GV male students went into the army reserves together, making that decision as 17 year olds.

“We went into active duty in August,” Dodd said. “Twelve or 15 boys from Grand Valley joined the reserve. There was no (war) at

that time.”

The Orwell boys probably didn’t realize how fortunate that decision would turn out to be.

Just a few years later, the United States became involved in the Vietnam War, taking many of their contemporaries into a conflict that would become most unpopular in this country.

After he got out of his army reserve obligation, Bishop went to work at Lincoln Electric, where he worked until his death at the age of 40.

“He worked there for many years,” his widow, Paula Bishop Smith, said. “He was Man of the Year there one

year. He was going to become Man of the Year again the year he died. He was the only man in Lincoln Electric history to be nominated twice.”

Paula, also a GV student, was several years younger than Lou.

“I knew him, maybe since I was 10 years old,” she said. “He was friends with my sister. I was about seven years younger than he was.”

Paula and Lou lived in Richmond Heights, then Mentor, during their marriage. They had two daughters, Tracy and Jill. Paula also had a son, Steve, by an earlier marriage. Lou treated them all as his children.

“He was a friendly person,” Paula said of Lou. “He loved parties, loved food and beer. He was good at any sport and loved his kids and wife.”

Bishop was a particularly good bowler.

He bowled two 299 games, one pin short of perfection. As any bowler will say the only way to do that is 11 straight strikes and one pin standing on the final ball.

“He had one of them on April Fool’s Day,” Paula said. “He called me to tell me and I thought he was joking with me. He got a real nice ring from the bowling association and got a watch for the second one.”

After losing her husband of just 12 years at such an early age, Paula remarried Gary Smith 12 years later. Smith died in 2012.

Paula’s children, Steve, Tracy and Jill, are 53, 48 and 46 respectively.

Paula has since moved back to Orwell.

PAPE: Conneaut graduate knew his role on teams that shined in junior, senior seasons

FROM PAGE 6

was fired after the group's sophomore season, they were ready to take charge of the league. Kent Houston was brought in as the coach to accomplish that.

"We were a good team and the NEC was a good league, still pretty competitive, but we were that much better," Pape said. "We had been together so long. The chemistry was there, the coaching was there and we were working hard."

Pape had a specific role on the team.

He rebounded, forced his way inside and shot from close to or under the basket.

Told he got a lot of "garbage" baskets, Pape didn't take umbrage.

"I think that's accurate," he said when asked about that designation. "I knew what my role was and I was very comfortable with it. I took pride in it. We had other players to (shoot from the outside). Those roles were filled."

In Pape's junior and senior seasons, the Spartans won all but one of their regular-season games, most by large margins.

But Conneaut ran into problems at the Madison sectional-districts, losing to Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph in 1994 and Cleveland Benedictine the next year.

"That was pretty amazing," Pape said of his junior year. "I think we were a great team, but (St. Joe's) was a team of tremendous athletes. I though I had played a lot of basketball, but that team had probably played more. The first play of the game, off the center jump, they got an alley-oop basket. I thought, 'Gee.' They were a well-oiled machine.

"Benedictine (took a big advantage) in the first half in that game. They just made more baskets than we did. Foul trouble was a rarity for us. They were just as aggressive as we were."

In describing his role on the team, Pape said, "I played center and forward, more center than forward. I could be a utility player. I could play any position. Houston would probably let me play guard, but Mason probably wouldn't have.

"Mason was an old-school, in-your-face coach. He was well-respected, but it took

a little getting used to. He was loved by the team, loved for what he did."

That held true, Pape said, despite Mason's use of "suicide drills," sprints from the baseline to half court, then the whole length of the court, repetitively.

"You'd do that if you didn't play well the night before," Pape said. "Houston was more methodical and regimented. He was very, very professional and a good motivator. He got us to put in the time in the offseason."

Like his teammates, Coxon and Lyons, Pape was a first-team All-Ashtabula County and All-NEC selection as a junior and senior.

Sort of a "tweener" (too short for a college center, too slow for a college forward), Pape was not a Division I college prospect.

But he received offers from Division III schools and some Division II colleges.

He finally settled on Division II (NAIA) Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Mount Vernon, Ohio, which gave him a scholarship that covered everything except books.

He played there for three years, then trans-

ferred to Kent State, where he finished his bachelor's degree in business administration without playing basketball.

"Mount Vernon was a good experience, but there was a different comfort level there," he said. "I was more or less a forward. I didn't get to play as much, but still enjoyed my time there."

When he graduated, Pape moved away from Conneaut and took positions in industrial sales and pharmaceutical sales.

He eventually moved into real estate sales, continuing to this day.

He currently works for Berkshire-Hathaway Homes in Painesville in residential sales.

Pape is now single, but has two sons, Jackson, 12, and Michael, 3.

"I get along with both of them," he said. "Jackson is more into Xbox than sports, but Michael is getting interested in sports. He's built more like a football player."

Of his days playing for Conneaut, Pape said, "I really enjoyed the people on my team. What a great time it was."

LYONS: Conneaut grad scored 1,000-plus points in prep career

FROM PAGE 4

with this team, it was definitely a heartbreak," Lyons said.

Prior to running into Benedictine, as Lyons remembers it, Conneaut beat West Geauga and Cleveland Central Catholic.

Although several Division I schools expressed interest, Lyons opted to spend his last two years in Division II at Gannon to ensure the opportunity for significant playing time.

During his senior year, Lyons discussed playing professional basketball abroad, possibly in Portugal or Australia.

He was set to go to Melbourne, Australia, but wound up in Madeira, a tropical Portuguese island off the coast of Morocco.

He played there for a year, then headed

to Germany, where he wound up playing on teams against and with Gannon teammate Steve Moyer.

After a year in Germany, Lyons planned to play in New Zealand.

"Three days before I was scheduled to leave for New Zealand, my dad had a stroke," he said. "I saw this as a sign it was time to move on from basketball to the next phase in my career."

After completing his degree at Gannon, Lyons held several jobs in the non-profit sector, and then spent some time working with Columbus City Schools.

He also earned an MBA, and has spent the last 10 years in the employee assistance program industry.

He is currently vice president of the student division.

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DRAKE: Undefeated regular season was highlight for PV graduate

FROM PAGE 7

five steals, played basketball at Waynesburg College.

Janowski, who averaged 12 points and five rebounds, played basketball at Case Western Reserve.

Burlingham added 13 points and nine rebounds that year at PV before taking her talents to Lakeland Community College, then the U.S. Army national team.

Pashley, who had seven points and three steals, ran track at Findlay, and Bentley, who contributed four points and four rebounds to the total, played basketball at D'Youville College.

Others on that team included Anne Cascio and Tiffany McKay. Janowski, Jenkins and Burlingham graduated that year.

During Drake's junior and senior seasons, Pashley and Bentley continued being valuable players, while new key players included post player Sevich, and guard Melissa Ballentine.

The Lakers were coached by Melody Nowakowski, who had starred at PV as Melody Holt and is in the ACBF Hall Fame, all four years of Drake's high school career.

In addition to her sophomore season, the Lakers posted records

of 15-6, 7-2 second in ESC as freshmen; 19-3, 9-0, ESC champs as juniors and 13-8, 9-5, when PV moved to the bigger-school NEC during Drake's senior year.

"Our undefeated season is untouchable," Drake said. "It's every team's dream and we accomplished it. So the memories from that season are irreplaceable. But it was a huge disappointment when we lost to Brookfield in districts. I would love to get that game back. They were a good team: guard-oriented, quick and great shooters. We just matched up differently. But I think we all believe that on any other given night we could have beaten them."

"Then to go on, after losing three starters to graduation, to win back-to-back ESC championships was just awesome. We lost our first game that season after coming off the undefeated season. It was a hard pill to swallow because we had hopes of going undefeated again. But it put us in check and made us work harder and we only lost three games that season."

"The championship game was unforgettable. We played our archrival, Grand Valley, at PV. The gym was packed. The atmosphere was electric. The student section

was crazy. On film, you couldn't hear the ball dribbling on the floor because it was so loud in the gym. Everything was on the line."

"We won in overtime. And there was pandemonium as the stands cleared to run on the floor to celebrate with the team."

"That night was like the type of basketball atmosphere that I watched my brother Sean play and succeed in. That type of basketball atmosphere was why I fell in love with the game. I credit that to Laker Nation. PV has a great community of fans that support the high school teams. It makes playing the game even more fun."

In Drake's senior year, PV switched to the tougher NEC, where it went against bigger schools such as Jefferson and Geneva and competed against legendary coaches Rod Holmes and Nancy Barbo.

Unimpressed with such awards, Drake didn't keep track of her individual awards, although she remembers being selected all-state honorable mention her junior and senior years.

During her career at PV, Drake scored 946 points, hitting 46 percent of her field goals.

She totaled 798 rebounds, including 228 in one season, and

added 244 steals.

At PV, Drake also played softball and volleyball.

As Drake neared graduation, colleges approached her with different offers.

"I was mainly recruited by Walsh University for basketball, Geneva College for basketball and Clarion University for softball," she said. "I always wanted to play softball in college, but never thought I could play basketball in college because I wasn't a very tall post player."

She wound up at Geneva College on a scholarship for both basketball and softball. She became a starter for four years on the basketball team, playing forward and scoring 1,153 points (seventh all-time at the time of her graduation) and 766 rebounds (fifth all-time when she graduated).

Drake also became a four-year starter for the softball team.

"For softball, we went to nationals two years," she said. "And I was a part of a historical season my senior year when the team had a record of 42-12."

"During that season, I scored 54 runs, which is still the record for runs scored in a single season."

Drake graduated with a degree in elementary and special education

and later added her master's degree in reading from Geneva as well.

She was fortunate enough to get a teaching job in Andover right out of college, at PV special education. But fate soon beckoned.

"Going into my second school year, I received a call from legendary Ron Galbreath, my coach from my senior year of college," Drake said. "He wanted me to return as his assistant at Geneva College."

"I couldn't refuse the amazing opportunity to learn from one of the best. So I packed my bags and moved back to Beaver Falls and coached with coach Galbreath for three years. I then had an opportunity for a teaching job along with a head coaching position at the high school level. So I left Geneva, and taught special education at Western Beaver in Industry, Pennsylvania."

"I was the high school girls head basketball coach and high school head softball coach there as well."

She spent two years there, leaving when her first daughter was born.

Her intention was to be a stay-at-home mom, but then she received another phone call from Geneva, offering her her dream job as head women's basket-

ball coach at Geneva College in addition to assistant softball coach.

Drake spent two years there, before her second daughter was born.

At that point, she decided to pursue another kind of dream, of staying at home with her babies.

Drake met her husband, Jason, in college, when he was playing baseball at Geneva College.

"I guess basketball does help in life beyond the court. It got me a husband. We have been married for 13 years and have four children, three girls and a boy: Addison (9), Stevie (7), Sawyer (4) and Bailey (3)."

Drake currently plays in a volleyball league.

"It's been fun playing again," she said. "I have always loved volleyball. Other than that, I try to work out on a regular basis and I enjoy running. I ran my first half-marathon two years ago and hope to do another."

"But time for myself is a rare thing when raising four young children. The majority of my days are filled tending to their needs and activities. They are getting involved with sports and I couldn't be enjoying that more. I can't wait to see them fall in love with the games."

DRESLINSKI:

Edgewood grad made history at school

FROM PAGE 8

the future athletes into being — to become not only great players but well-rounded people.”

Dreslinski is currently a physical therapy assistant at an outpatient clinic. She recently got married and lives in Buffalo, New York with her wife, Jo, and their cat, Margot. In her free time, she enjoys biking on the trails, camping in the mountains and working on home improvement projects. Dreslinski has managed to keep busy athletically, playing slow-pitch softball last year.

“I think I pulled my back swinging too hard at a ball I missed,” she

said, “But I’ll still play again this year.”

Dreslinski remains thankful to the people in her life who have helped her.

“First and foremost, I would like to thank my parents (Dave and Linda) and family ... for listening to space jam on repeat, for playing “Pig” in the driveway with me in all seasons, for being there and cheering me on at every game,” she said. “Thank you to my coaches throughout the years for shaping me into the athlete I wanted to be — coach Fowler, coach Fischer, coach Monas and coach Melaragno. Thank you to all of my teammates throughout the years.”

Tom Henson ACBF golf tournament June 8

The fifth annual Tom Henson Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation golf tournament is scheduled for June 8 at Village Green Golf Course in North Kingsville.

Registration is at 8 a.m. with tee time at 9. This is a four-person scramble.

Cost is \$75 per golfer (\$300 per team) and includes: 18 holes (four

person scramble, two dogs at the turn, dinner, door prizes, optional skins game, 50/50 raffle and additional side raffles).

The event is open to the first 120 players.

Four-hundred dollars will be awarded to the first-place team.

For more information, call Steve Kray at 440-998-1413.

ROACH: PV graduate shined in assists, free-throw shooting during senior season

FROM PAGE 10

ferred to Kent’s main campus, graduating with a bachelor of science in education.

But he never became a teacher. Instead, he went into the field of manufacturing management, where he has

spent 43 years, starting at Union Carbide, which became Elkem Metals, for 17 years. Currently he works in Albion, Pennsylvania for the Rogers Brothers Corporation. He is set to retire on Sunday. During his years, Roach has had such jobs as shift

supervisor, department manager, plant manager and quality manager.

Roach has been married to Jean (Lago) Roach, who is originally from Ashtabula. He met her at work back in the mid-1970s. They’ve been married 39 years.

“We don’t have chil-

dren, but have spoiled several four legged critters throughout the years,” Roach said. “Today I participate in golf and exercise by walking and working in the yard. I’ve basically become a spectator and fan of Ohio’s high school, professional and college sports.”

THOMPSON: Ashtabula grad had penchant for dishing the ball to teammates

FROM PAGE 9

when he played with teammates Ray Davis, Bill Taggart and Tony Ross.

“We were a so-so team then, about .500,” Thompson said. “We were playing against guys like (Harbor’s) Dana Schulte and (Geneva’s) Ralph DeJesus. My junior year we won the NEC, but my senior year we lost to Madison in the last game.”

Walters had moved Thompson to forward that year, with Taylor and March playing the guard positions.

“I think I was the second-leading scorer on the team (to Kevin Hanna) that year,” Thompson said. “I probably led the team in assists all three years.”

Madison and Harbor were the other top teams in the NEC at the time. Hanna recalls

one game against the Mariners very well.

“We played Harbor at home my senior year and I made a last-second basket to win the game,” he said. “Those were all memorable games against Harbor.”

Thompson was very impressed by Walters as a coach.

“He taught me so much stuff I still use in life today,” Thompson said. “Things other than playing basketball, things like respect and hard work.”

Thompson also played football for the Panthers during his junior and senior years. He was a defensive end and tight end on offense under coach Rollie Mushrush. John March was the quarterback and Isaac Scruggs and Tony Fleming the running backs on that Ashtabula team.

“I had a lot of passes thrown to me and

scored a few touchdowns,” Thompson said. “(Mushrush) was a tough coach. We were so-so, about .500.”

He also ran track as a junior, competing in the 440-yard sprint.

After graduating in 1984, Thompson moved on to play basketball for Kent State’s Ashtabula branch for a year. Among his teammates were former foes like Harbor’s Greg Vandeweel, Conneaut’s Bruce Maenpaa and Edgewood’s Jeff Hall.

After his freshman year, his mother died. Thompson quit school and went to work. His first job was at the Northeastern Box Company in Ashtabula. After three years there, he moved on to Premix Plastics in Kingsville.

He took a job in Warren in 1996 and eventually moved to

Akron in 2010. He now works for Pull-Apart, a salvage yard in Akron.

Now single, Thompson has two sons, almost 20 and almost 16.

“My older son is a pretty good basketball player,” Thompson said. “He’s 6-4 or 6-5. My younger son is now a junior at Garfield in Akron. He’s starting his first year of organized ball. He’s still learning a little bit.”

Thompson tries to help his son out, but not to the point of interfering with his coaching.

Thompson himself still plays basketball regularly in Akron on the local playgrounds.

“I used to play with my sons,” he said. “Now I find a gym and play with people my own age. I’d been playing with people younger than me. When I can’t keep up with these guys, I’ll quit playing.”

CUDDY: Geneva grad had 7 threes in second game of HS career

FROM PAGE 12

Cuddy became the third-leading scorer in Geneva history to DeJesus and Anita Tersigni with 1,305 points when she graduated. All three have since been surpassed by Lindsay Mayle.

She was a four-year letter winner in basketball, volleyball and softball, something she is incredibly proud of.

The awards rolled in for Cuddy: basketball — first-team all-county for four years and Player of the Year her senior year, MVP for Geneva her senior season, first Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation's (girls) POY her senior year and was all-district and all-state in some capacity all four years. In volleyball and softball, she was second-team all-county her freshman year, then first team her last three years. Not surprisingly, she was selected as the DJ Caton female athlete of the year as a senior. A Star Beacon Scholar Athlete from her sophomore year on, she was selected the Winter Scholar Athlete of the Year as a senior.

In addition to playing for high school teams, Cuddy played many sports in the summer — AAU basketball and ASA/NSA softball. When

she was 12, she recalls playing with the Valley Sting, a softball team out of Poland that also included players like Emily Baskin of Conneaut; Pam Dreslinski, of Edgewood, who will also join the ACBF Hall of Fame this year; Lisa Steadman of Edgewood and Melissa Bovee, of Edgewood. The team was coached by Reid Lamport, Jim Baskin and the late Scotty Raybuck.

"I gotta say, Ashtabula County really showed up on this team," Cuddy said. "I think we won almost 80 games that summer, and only lost four. It was unreal."

The Sting claimed a national championship that year, coming out of the loser's bracket.

She also played AAU Basketball for The Vipers, at times having to play both sports in the same day. As her high-school career ended, she drew attention from colleges, getting looks from Ivy League schools like Cornell and Yale, who wanted her to walk on.

Bucknell, Case Western Reserve, St. John Fisher, Hiram and Wittenberg also expressed interest and came to watch her play. With Gephart's encouragement, she applied to DePauw. She received academic scholarship

help and made the team, playing on the basketball team for two years. In 59 games with averages of 16.6 minutes while hitting 41.6 percent of her two-pointers and 44 percent of her three-point shots, Cuddy averaged 6.9 points per game and played in the NCAA Division III Tournament, making it to the Sweet 16 her freshman year.

She graduated with a liberal arts degree, majoring in creative writing with minors in religion and sociology.

Since then, she has parlayed her talents into success in a creative industry.

"I am stoked to have found success in a creative industry," she said. "In my current role, I'm an executive producer for an experience and design agency, called Jam3. The company is headquartered in Toronto, and almost three years ago they asked me to join and lead their Los Angeles-based office."

Cuddy lives in a Los Angeles suburb.

"Home life is pretty simple," she said. "My partner, Kathryn Ferguson (of pole vaulting fame in El Dorado Hills), and I live together in Marina Del Rey, California with our pup, Ducky. We live on the water and love being outside."

TINNEY: St. John graduate excelled with strong family support

FROM PAGE 11

about me. It was really about my parents, who had sacrificed so much for me to be the player I was. They never missed a game; they paid extra money for me to play on traveling teams, to go to camps, to have the right equipment. My mom cooked an incredible amount of food for whatever team I was on. Not to mention the countless hours my dad spent with me in our backyard or at the gym. Scoring that 1,000th point was really about them. I sometimes wonder how I got so lucky in my parents or if parents like them still exist."

At St. John, Tinney became a starter in both volleyball and tennis on the boys team (there was no Heralds girls team at the time). In basketball, she scored 1,036 points and was first-team All-Ashtabula County and Player of the Year in the East Suburban Conference two of the four years.

In volleyball, she was all-conference Player of the Year three of those years and All-Ashtabula County Player of the Year two of the four years. She also played first singles on the tennis team from her sophomore-to-senior years.

Tinney-Malm was recruited for college

volleyball, basketball and tennis teams.

With that in mind, she decided on Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania.

"My college selection was largely based on receiving the best possible education and ensuring I could easily attain a job upon graduation. I played volleyball in college, but wish I would have continued onward with playing tennis or basketball in college," Tinney-Malm said.

Graduating with a bachelor of science in accounting from Grove City, she sat for and passed the CPA (Certified Public Accountant) exam. In the summer of her junior year, she had interned with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, LLP (PwC) in the audit practice.

"I accepted a full-time position with them and started with PwC in September of 2007," she said. "Working in audit, I specialize in the energy industry and work with large public corporations on their quarterly and annual public SEC filings. I am also part of our Firm's National Quality Organization, which assists various engagement teams with challenging audit methodology."

Tinney-Malm started her career in Pittsburgh and transferred to Den-

ver in 2011.

"I've now been with PwC for over 11 years and am a senior manager with the firm," she said. "For the record, although I am a CPA, I know very little about income taxes. The audit team is responsible for providing assurance on the company's financial statements as a whole."

She is married to Josh Malm.

"I met Josh about eight years ago when I transferred to Denver from Pittsburgh with PwC," Tinney-Malm said. "I met Josh my first day in the Denver office. He claims I winked at him — I let him believe that. A year-and-a-half later we were engaged and 11 months after that we were married."

"We have three dogs (Carver, Lullabelle and Gus-gus) — all rescued from a Humane Society or rescue group. We don't have human children. Denver is a fantastic place to live. Josh and I enjoy hiking. We are really blessed."

Tinney-Malm occasionally still plays tennis. Since wrapping up her basketball and volleyball careers, she has become an avid runner and has competed in five full marathons, including qualifying for the Boston Marathon and 15 half-marathons.

BRADLEY: Harbor grad scored 44 points in game vs. Madison

FROM PAGE 14

used me more than they did. I caught two touchdown passes against Erie Strong Vincent and only had three touchdown (receptions) the whole season. I didn't get the ball thrown to me except one when Max Holman, a running back, threw it to me."

Bradley wanted to run

track his senior year, but, because of some confusion over his eligibility, wound up not doing so.

"I think if I had run track, we'd probably have gone to state in the 4X400 relay," he said.

"We would have had the two Holmans, Darrell Sargent and me."

Bradley had the skill set to play basketball

in college, but not the academic background needed.

"My grades were not all that good," he said. "I wish I would have taken (high school courses) more seriously."

He wound up at Boyce Junior College outside Pittsburgh, a team which went 17-6 his first year, the better of the two he

played there.

"That didn't work out like I wanted it to," he said. "Things happened after that and I dropped out of school. I should have hung in there."

Bradley moved on to Wilmington College, where he ran track. He broke the school's 200-meter record with a 22.08.

"That was the first time I ran track since the seventh grade," he said. "I always liked track."

He left Wilmington without a degree and went to work in California, then Hawaii, doing odd jobs along the way.

He eventually moved back to Ashtabula to be with his mother, who is now 96. He now

works for the railroad in Cleveland (the CSX Collinwood Yard), as he has since 2001, as a crane operator.

Bradley married Melody Laqhan 14 years ago. Melody was working at Walmart and the two met at a family reunion.

Bradley has a daughter, Alicia Jackson, and three stepsons, Mark, Calvin and Jordan Sandidge.

FINK: Jefferson grad credits parents for much of his success

FROM PAGE 13

have a lot of wins during my high school basketball career, so it is very easy for me to say that was the sweetest win in my career."

In his junior year, Fink was chosen first-team All-GRC and second-team All-Ashtabula County, averaging 15.4 points and 8.0 rebounds per game. After upping those averages to 21.9 points and 12.5 rebounds per contest, he became a first-teamer on both those teams as a senior. He added first-team Western Reserve Basketball

Coaches Association All-Star Game, All-Inland and Northeast District and honorable mention Division II UPI All-State honors.

His junior and senior seasons together, he averaged double figures in rebounds and points, while hitting 54 percent of his field goals and 66 percent of his free throws.

Originally, Fink verbally agreed to attend John Carroll University in Cleveland, but changed his mind and eventually decided on Mercyhurst University in Erie, a NCAA Division II school.

"Mercyhurst didn't offer a full scholarship until late in the recruiting cycle, but after a lot of thought, I decided to accept their offer," he said. "The local media had fun with that late change, but I am very glad I changed my mind. I loved my time at Mercyhurst, and that's where I met my wife ... so all good."

He graduated from Mercyhurst with a bachelor of arts in accounting and a minor in computer information systems.

"I recently joined an Arlington, Virginia-based

mortgage technology consulting firm named The Phoenix Team to help them design and develop new software applications for the community banking market," he said.

Fink met his wife, Tasha (from Linesville, Pennsylvania), in his very first class of his freshman year at Mercyhurst. They've been married for 23 years.

"We were just friends for a couple of years, but then started dating in the summer before our junior year," he said. "We married in Jefferson in 1996 and

lived in Pittsburgh for four years before moving to the Lake Norman area of North Carolina (40 minutes north of Charlotte). We've lived in the Lake Norman area ever since."

The Finks have two children, Hayden (14) and Daria (13).

Fink credits his parents with much of his success.

"I just wanted to mention that I would not be receiving this honor if it weren't for my parents, Larry and Ruth Fink," he said. "They attended every one of my games from seventh grade all

the way through college. That's no exaggeration; they were at every single game I played, home and away ... and the away games were no easy feat in college.

"My dad passed away in 2015, but I know he's so happy and proud for me to receive this honor.

My mom lives near us in North Carolina. She was very happy when I told her about the ACBF Hall of Fame induction. Maybe this will help make up for the banged-up walls from all of the times I dribbled up and down the hallway as a kid."



Congratulations All 2019 Hall Of Fame Inductees And Award Honorees...

Prosecutor *Nick Tarocci*