

# **EDWARD ZYDOWSKY—(COACH & EDUCATOR)**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2015**

Mr. Zydowsky was a four-sport coach (football, baseball, girls & boys basketball) during parts of four different decades. He was a success in each field of competition. His girls basketball teams were the measuring stick of success in Wisconsin for many years. Their string of success included a 9-year undefeated streak in the South Central Conference. He had a 302 & 49 record over 15 years of coaching taking 4 PHS girls teams to the State Tournament. His team went 49 & 1 over a two-season span that culminated with a 25 & 0 record and a Class B State Championship in 1982.

Coach Zydowsky is already a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame. Ed also provided a positive learning atmosphere for hundreds of PHS athletes and thousands of students during his long tenure as a coach and teacher in the Portage School District.

# **HOWARD OCHS (COACH & EDUCATOR)**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2015**

Mr. Ochs was a two-sport coach (basketball & golf) for PHS. He coached boys golf for 28 years (1973 to 2000), turning out many great golfers and winning teams. He coached basketball at the freshman & JV levels at PHS before taking over as the head coach in 1974. Although his tenure of 10 seasons were not as long as his golf coaching career, it most certainly was in our city's spotlight of pride. In Coach Ochs' 1st season as head coach he took his team all the way to the Class A Sectional at the UW Fieldhouse to play Madison LaFollette. That would start a string of very successful teams who competed at the highest levels in both Class A and Class B through his last season in 1983.

Howard's crowning season as a basketball coach was most likely this 1982 team. He led that team to a 23 & 2 season, ending the year with a 20-game winning streak and a Class B State Champion- ship. Coach Ochs is already a member of the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame and he had a positive effect on hundreds of athletes and thousands of students as a coach and teacher in the Portage School District.

# **JULIE LOBENSTEIN JORDAHL (ATHLETE, EDUCATOR, COACH & VOLUNTEER)**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2015**

Julie Lobenstein Jordahl was a superbly gifted athlete who was also a trailblazer for girls high school sports in Portage. She participated in volleyball, basketball and track at PHS, but when she entered her freshman year at PHS in the fall of 1971 there had been no inter-scholastic sports for any girls at PHS. All sports had been played through the Girl's Athletic Association (GAA) intramural program in school. During her freshman season she did participate in GAA volleyball and basketball, but PHS formed its first girls inter-scholastic track team that spring. Mrs. Jordahl proved to be a unique athlete throwing the shot put and running the mile amongst other events as a freshman. In Portage's first year of competitive track Julie was the conference champion in the 1 mile event as a freshman. She would win conference in the mile again as a sophomore, junior and senior. She placed 7th at State in the mile as a sophomore in PHS's 2nd year of competition.

During Julie's junior year, PHS added inter-scholastic volleyball for the first time and she thrived in that sport. The next year she led that team to State. In 1975, her senior year, she saw the introduction of inter-scholastics girls basketball. The team lost its first game by 3 points, but won 6 of its next seven games and she was a valuable member of that team.

Mrs. Jordahl has also been a great educator, coach and community volunteer in Portage for over 30 years. She taught in the Portage School District for 29 years working with 4-H, archery and children with special needs.

# **1978 PHS GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP CURLING TEAM**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2015**

The Portage Girls State Champion Curling team was the first PHS girls team to win State in any sport. They set an example that has encouraged many other girls teams, especially girls curling teams, to duplicate their accomplishments over and over again. This team, led by 2nd year coach Diane Taylor Firari, had to compete in a round-robin tournament against the other three Sectional Champions (Wausau East, Wausau West and Lodi) to win State, and they did.

The close-knit team had a very successful season leading into tournament play. They had a Senior-led team with a great starting four: Sue Small PHS '78, skip, Linda Hustedt PHS '78, 3rd, Jackie Wendorf Braith PHS '78, 2nd and Leslyn Jevens Jacobs PHS '78, lead, with many strong alternates to choose from, including Debbie Watson PHS '79, who accompanied the team to State.

In the Championship round the Warrior girls had ended the game tied with Wausau East 5-5 in the eighth end. The Warriors then scored one stone in the extra end to win 6-5 securing Portage first ever Girls High School championship. It was a spectacular finish to a super season.

# **PAUL MANDLI (COACH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR & EDUCATOR)**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2015**

Paul Mandli was an accomplished and successful wrestling and football coach at PHS and other institutions prior to landing in Portage. He may best be known as an exceptional Athletic Director at PHS. He must be credited with hiring some of Portage's best coaches including Ed Zydowsky, Joanne Armson and keeping the likes of Howard Ochs and Miles Oakey positions to succeed. He put everything in place to have qualified coaches working in good facilities to benefit Portage's athletes.

In the 1972 PHS Wauona annual Mr. Mandli was quoted to state, "I have lived in New York, North Carolina, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois as well as Portage. From my home town, Racine, I went on to receive my degree at UW. I also received my MS at the U of Illinois. You might have heard about my athletic records over the last 23 years and the young men that have developed." We have heard these things Mr. Mandli and we are happy you have chosen Portage as your home for the past 51 years.

It is known that Mr. Mandli had coached at the college level before moving to Portage. He had many opportunities to take his talents elsewhere, but he wanted to help influence and develop young science students and male athletes. He has met that goal on so many levels. When we consider the talented and accomplished group of tonight's inductees we can see that Mr. Mandli has had "a hand" in the success of each of them in one way or another.

# **DENNIS DORN - CLASS OF 1968**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2017**

Dennis Dorn and his brother Ron are business partners at Portage Lumber Do-it Best which was started by their father Ray in 1953. Their company believes in being good citizens in the community.

“You have a corporate responsibility not just to be a nice guy or a nice company, but a responsibility to give back”, according to Dennis. That mantra has encouraged Mr. Dorn to work on diverse projects like the Portage High School Building Trades Program, Habitat for Humanity, The Portage Center of the Arts, Portage Historic Indian Agency House’s advisory board, Rotary Club, The Wisconsin State Historical Society Board, The Divine Savior Healthcare Board and the committee to launch Tivoli Nursing Home among others.

Dennis also brought The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra (WCO) to Portage for the past 25 years as a former WCO Board member.

Dorn has credited his wife of 18 years, Maribeth, his brother Ron, his family, the right upbringing and great friends for making him the person he is today.

# **GREGG STEINHAUS - CLASS OF 1982**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2017**

Gregg Steinhaus graduated from PHS as the 2nd leading career scorer and rebounder in Warrior boys basketball history. As a junior, he led Portage one game away from a State Tournament appearance. As a senior, Gregg guided his team to a 23 & 2 record, winning the final 20 games on their way to Portage's only WIAA State Boys Basketball Championship. He is the first individual male basketball player to be enshrined in the PHS HOF.

Steinhaus went on to have a successful college career on scholarship as a University of Wisconsin Badger playing all four years, including 13 starts his senior season. He is Portage's only male four-year D-1 NCAA basketball player.

# **SUSAN POMPLUN CAWLEY - CLASS OF 1961**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2017**

Susan Pomlun Cawley was a very active PHS student involved with the Warrior Newspaper, Latin Club, all things musical from band to choir to glee club & plays; and participating in G.A.A while earning the D.A.R.'s Good Citizen Award. Susan was one of the top 11 students in her senior class.

The energy, skills and intelligence Susan honed at PHS were used after college to benefit thousands of students in the Racine School District for 40 years as a music instructor. She taught at Case High School for 13 of those years, inspiring 11 of her students to go on to inspire students of their own.

Mrs. Cawley was a dedicated teacher who would organize multiple trips for students to attend concerts and to perform in other states over many years.

Her teaching excellence earned her the 1995 PTA Wisconsin Teacher of the Year. Susan Cawley has remained connected to her hometown school by co-sponsoring two \$500 scholarships each year to PHS seniors (1 boy & 1 girl).



# **ALEX NELSON - CLASS OF 2001**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2017**

Alex Nelson was a four-time WIAA State wrestling qualifier and the first PHS wrestler to ever win two State Championships, going 80 & 0 during his junior and senior seasons in the D-2 152 lbs. weight class.

After graduation, Nelson went on to wrestle at the collegiate level at NIU where he had a successful career, including 52 wins and a 3rd place finish in the Mid-American Conference Championships.

Alex also did PHS proud his senior year of college by being named a NIU Scholar Athlete while earning the Student of Excellence in Physical Education Award and making the Dean's List.

It should be noted that Alex was a three-sport athlete at PHS, playing baseball and starting quarterback on the football team.

# **DAVID BENNETT - CLASS OF 1946**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2017**

David Bennett was a philanthropist, District Attorney, University of Wisconsin Regent, real estate developer, personal attorney and advocate for Boys Scouts throughout Wisconsin.

Mr. Bennett can be credited with the location of our current High School after David donated the valuable land needed for East Collins Street to be built.

He served as Columbia County's district attorney from 1959 to 1967 and as a UW System Regent during our state's largest expansion from 1965 to 1971.

As a land developer, David Bennett built complexes in Portage, Baraboo and Reedsburg. He also had a profound impact on Wisconsin's Boy Scouts with his involvement with the scouting facility at Castle Rock.

# **2005 GIRLS STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM**

**HOF CLASS OF 2017**

**COACH DAVE MILLS and AMY ZEIHEN**

The 2005 Girls' Softball team completed their regular season with a 18 & 2 record and a second straight Badger North Conference Championship. They opened tournament play with a strong 11-4 win over Wisconsin Dells before facing Lodi who had eliminated them the previous three seasons.

Avenge those losses with a 1-0 win over Lodi in the Regional Finals gave Coach Mills' and Coach Zeihen's team the confidence to defeat two tough sectional and state tournament opponents. Those additional six tournament wins gave the team a 24 & 2 overall record and PHS Girls' Softball its first WIAA State Championship.

# **2006 STATE CHAMPION BASEBALL TEAM**

**HOF CLASS OF 2019**

**COACHED BY MIKE HEMMING, JERRY KABELE (PHS 1981), MATT DENURE & MATT DIETZENBACH**

The 2006 Portage Boys' Baseball team made history as the first Portage team to go to State and become the first state champions.

It takes a whole team to win a title, from solid pitching and catching, strong leadership, great hitting, clean defense, and the support of good, young players.

It was truly a special group of guys who had an amazing season which included a Badger North Conference title and a 15-game winning streak to end the season.

The coaching staff consisted of Mike Hemming, Matt Denure, Jerry Kabele, and Matt Dietzenbach. They all brought unique skills that helped in shaping the team. A solid coaching staff worked together with a tremendous team to achieve a great accomplishment!

# **JUSTIN OSTROWSKI - PHS CLASS OF 2003**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2022**

From the fall of 1999 through the spring of 2003, Justin Ostrowski became one of the most decorated athletes in Portage High School history. During this time he earned 11 varsity letters (football-4, basketball-4, baseball-1, track & field-2).

Justin became Portage's first-ever Parade All-American Football Player, the 2002 Wisconsin Gatorade Football Player of the Year and the WFCB Defensive Player of the Year.

He is one of only three 5-star recruits to ever play for the University of Wisconsin football team. Ostrowski was the top Badger recruit in a class that included NFL Hall of Famer Joe Thomas. He started on the Badgers' defensive line, including a start against Auburn in the 2005 Capital One Bowl.

Justin also accomplished an impressive resume on the hardwood, graduating as Portage's third all-time leading scorer with 1,465 points. During his senior season he led Portage to a 23 and 2 record, with wins over powerhouses like Madison Memorial. That season saw Portage go all the way to the Division 2 State Tournament for only the third time in Portage history. Ostrowski also left his mark in baseball and track and field.

Today, he gives back to his hometown as a coach and mentor with his

involvement in many youth programs. He and his wife, Amber (PHS '03), live in Portage with their two sons.

# **PAUL BOYLAN - PHS CLASS OF 1957**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2022**

Paul Charles Boylan was born in Portage on October 2, 1939 and graduated from PHS in 1957. He was elected president of the freshman class and was awarded the Elks Club Youth Leadership Award, which came with a scholarship to help pay for his college education at UW-Madison where he earned his bachelor's degree in music and master's degree in music theory. He later earned his PhD from the University of Michigan in historical musicology.

After his education, he started his teaching career, beginning with a teaching fellowship and ending as vice provost for the School of Arts. The position of dean of musical, theatre & dance at the University of Michigan is named after Paul Boylan.

During his time at the University of Michigan, he served on many academic, policy, budget and safety & security committees, as well as numerous professional associations. He led two successful capital campaigns, including raising over \$20 million to renovate and expand the university's historic Hill Auditorium.

Prior to his administrative duties, he performed over 100 piano solos and chamber music repertory, including many broadcasts on National Public Radio. He has also authored many articles published by numerous music associations.

Paul has three adult sons. He and his husband, Morris, currently live in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

# **JIM BANKS - PHS CLASS OF 1980**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2022**

Jim Banks' Portage sports debut was delayed by a serious football injury to his knee as a sophomore.

Still he earned three varsity letters that injury- plagued year and he made the most of his final two years, earning five more varsity letters while setting multiple records and winning an individual WIAA Class A State Championship.

He started his junior year helping the volleyball team win a conference championship. He was all- conference in basketball as the team's leading rebounder and second-leading scorer. He was an impressive inside force on the hardwood. Portage made it to the Class A regional finals where they lost to Madison East. It seemed clear that a healthy Jimbo may have been the missing piece for a PHS Class A state championship the prior year. That spring he qualified for State in shot put and discus.

As a senior, he set the single-season record for most rebounds, which still stands today after 42 years. He left PHS as the No. 1 all-time rebounder in just over two seasons of play. He is still fourth on that list. Jim Banks repeated as all-conference and was all-state honorable mention while completing his career as the 13th-leading scorer of all time. He also dominated the Class A field at the WIAA State Track and Field championships, winning a first place gold medal for his shot put throw of 58'-4". His personal best that year was just shy of 60 feet. He had a sixth place finish in the discus to go along with his gold medal.

After PHS, Jim had one record-setting year at MATC (Madison College). He completed his only season with the seventh-best field goal percentage in MATC history and he still has the seventh-best single- season rebounding record.

Jim and his wife Lori (PHS '80) have two adult children and live in Endeavor.

# **STEVE BANKS - PHS CLASS OF 1978**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2022**

Steve Banks may have been the best all-around male athlete to go through Frederick Jackson Turner High School in the 70s. He ended his career with seven varsity letters and a super senior year earning all-conference honors in football, basketball and baseball.

Banks added MVP honors in baseball and basketball his senior year. He also quarterbacked the football team to its first winning season in many years. In basketball, Steve led the South Central Conference in scoring, while leading Portage to its first conference championship in 23 years. He graduated as the second-leading scorer of all time. Steve was honorable mention all-state and played in the first Wisconsin High School Basketball All-Star game.

As a junior, he led Portage through the WIAA basketball tournament as the smallest school in the "Class A" division. At sectionals PHS beat highly ranked Big Eight champions Madison West, before losing to eventual state champions Madison LaFollette in the sectional final.

In Steve's final two games the following year he scored 18 points in the fourth quarter of a Class A regional championship game to erase a double-digit deficit on his way to 35 points. His final game was once again vs. a Madison West team looking for revenge. Madison West did win, but all their efforts could not stop Steve Banks from scoring 39 points that night.

Steve was also a tuba player in the band. He attended concerts and solo & ensemble even as a senior on game days.

Steve and his wife Janet (PHS '83) have 3 adult children and live outside of Pardeeville.



# **KEN MANTHEY - PHS CLASS OF 1975**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2022**

A lifelong resident of Portage, Ken graduated from Portage High School in 1975. After earning his associate degree in the police science program, Ken was immediately hired by the Portage Police Department in 1979.

Ken would spend the next 40 years serving and protecting the residents of Portage and surrounding communities. Ken would eventually rise to the position of Portage Chief of Police and he held that lofty title for 18 years.

During his years of service, Ken was presented with the Officer of the Year award by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Officers Association. He was instrumental in the success of many community organizations and projects such as Prevention and Response in Columbia County (PARCC), Citizens Police Academy and Volunteers in Police Services, among many others.

After his retirement in 2020, Ken leaned on his strong faith to continue to serve the community by starting a county-wide chaplain program that provides comfort to people during difficult times and who may have experienced loss.

Ken's latest venture has been as a comfort dog handler. Ken has been married to his wife Beth for over 41 years. They have two daughters, Emily and Rachel.

# **2012 PHS STATE CHAMPION BASEBALL TEAM**

## **HOF CLASS OF 2022**

### **COACH MIKE HEMMING AND BRADY GREENE**

The 2012 Portage Warriors team will always be remembered for their fight not to be denied to bring home another state championship to Portage. In the regional final, they trailed Wisconsin Dells 7-3 in the seventh inning. The Warriors prevailed 11-7 in eight innings.

In the sectional final, they trailed Lodi 6-5 in the 9th inning. The Warriors prevailed 7-6. In the state semi-final Portage was considered the heavy underdog as Fox Valley Lutheran boasted a .389 team batting average as well as a Division 1 pitcher who was 9-1 on the season with three no-hitters.

The Warriors were unfazed and sprinted out to a 4-1 lead in the first inning and won 7-2. In the state final Portage went up against Ellsworth who had defeated the No.1-ranked team in the state to get the championship game.

Once again, the Warriors showed no fear and bolted out to a 6-0 lead in the first two innings and won 8-3. It was a total team effort as many players had big time moments in regional, sectional, and state games.

The coaching staff consisted of Mike Hemming, Jim Walker, Dave Hamilton, Bill Greene, Mike Nelson, Matt Dietzenbach, and Shawn Bolgrien. It was a tremendous staff that all had roles that molded this team to be champions!