

DONNA FUCHS ~ 1979

A native of Dayton, Kentucky, Donna Fuchs attended St. Bernard Elementary School. She graduated in 1979 from Our Lady of Providence Academy. Donna participated in softball and basketball at OLP. Her many accomplishments include being named to the 35th District All Tournament team her sophomore, junior and senior years. She was selected to the 9th Region All Tournament team as a junior and senior. During her senior season at OLP, Donna averaged 16 points, 7 assists, and 5 steals. Being selected to the "All 9th Region" first team, and the Kentucky Post All Star Team highlighted her career.

As the first athlete from Our Lady of Providence to receive a basketball scholarship, Donna continued her basketball career at Georgetown College, where she was also a member of the softball team.

After an impressive two years of playing for Georgetown College, she transferred to Northern Kentucky University where she played two more seasons of basketball and softball for the Lady Norse. On the basketball court Donna was known for her quickness and ball handling abilities. As a softball player, she mixed her speed with outstanding hitting and defense.

Following college, Donna continued to participate in softball. She was a member of the Pabst Blue Ribbon 1983 USSSA World Championship softball team. She also played on teams that won national championships in South Carolina and Florida. She was selected to the "All-City" team in Cincinnati four consecutive years. Donna's career in women's athletics has spanned four decades.

Donna currently resides in Taylor Mill, Kentucky. She works in a management position for UPS where she has been employed for the past 22 years. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

RON DAWN ~ 1974

Ron Dawn attended Newport Catholic from 1970 – 1974. He participated in track, cross-country and basketball. As a basketball player he played on two Ninth Region Championship teams. He was named to the All Region Team as a senior averaging 20 points per game. In that same year, he was named honorable mention All Star and was the MVP of the N.I.T.

Upon graduating from NewCath he attended Thomas More College on a basketball scholarship. While at Thomas More he was a three-year starter for their team. He began teaching and coaching at NC in 1979. He coached the freshman team for six years and made it to the regional finals five consecutive years, winning the region twice. He became the head basketball coach in 1990 and coached until 2001. In that time NCC won four "All A" Regional Championships, a Ninth Region championship and an

All "A" State Championship. He ended his NCC coaching career with over 300 victories.

Currently, Ron is the Athletic Director at Newport Central Catholic. He lives in Ft. Thomas with his wife of thirty years, Patty. They have been blessed with two children and four grandchildren.

ART GREENE ~ 1965

Art graduated from Newport Catholic in 1965. He ran cross-country and track from 1962 through 1965. He was an honor roll student and amassed the following accomplishments while at NC:

- Regional win in cross-country
- Individual champion 1963
- Individual champion 1964 – ran 9 minutes, 10 seconds for two miles, the record still stands.
- Regional win in track
- Individual champion – Mile Run 1964
- Individual champion – 880 yard run 1964
- Individual champion – Mile Run 1965
- Individual champion – 880 yard run 1965
- Relay champion – Mile Relay 1965

After graduation he ran track and cross country at Western Kentucky University. He is the past president of the Northern Kentucky Golf Association. He is the father of three and resides in Highland Heights.

MIKE MCMANNON ~ 1968

Michael McMannon graduated in 1968 as the class Valedictorian, and a 3-year letterman in Track. When he graduated he held school records in Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump and ran on the school record holding 880 and Mile Relay Teams.

He was a member of the "Cinderella" State Champion Track Team in 1967, winning the Triple Jump with State Record 46'5", and placing 2nd in the Long Jump, and ran on the Mile Relay team that placed third. He competed in the Jaycee Junior Olympic Nationals in 1967 placing 2nd in the Long Jump with a State best 24'1-3/4". He was the first Kentucky high school jumper to break 24 Feet.

He won both the Long Jump and Triple Jump at the Mason Dixon Games at Freedom Hall in 1968, setting a national high school indoor record in Triple Jump of 46'9". In the best performance of his high school career he won the Long Jump at the 1968 Mansfield Relays with a Kentucky State Best 24'9-1/2" jump, breaking a record once held by Jesse Owens. In 1968 he had AA state leading performances in the 100, 220, Long Jump and Triple Jump.

A severe leg injury just before the regional track limited his ability to jump; yet he still managed to win the Regional 100 and 220-yard sprints. He recovered from the injury in time to compete at the Jaycee Nationals in 1968 winning the Long Jump with 23'6", and placing 2nd Triple Jump 47'8" in heavy Oregon rains.

He attended the University of Notre Dame on a full Track Scholarship, lettering all four years. He broke all Notre Dame Indoor and Outdoor Long Jump and Triple Jump Records, 25'2" and 49'7".

He received a Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame in 1973. He started his engineering career as a Metallurgist at The Lunkenheimer Valve Company for 10 years, and is presently Environmental, Health and Safety Manager and Explosive Safety Officer at L-3 Communications KDI Precision Products, Inc. in Cincinnati.

He and his wife Melissa will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in July. They live in Independence, KY.

JOE NADICKSBERND ~ 1967

Joe is a 1967 graduate of NC. During his years at NewCath he lettered 3 times in basketball and twice in baseball. Joe was part of the 9th Regional Championship team in 1965-66. In his senior year he was an All-9th Region selection, honorable mention All State, MVP of the year and 2nd team All-GCL. His team was also Baseball 9th Regional Champs 1966-67. Joe received a Bachelor of Science in Marketing and graduated Cum Laude at The Christian Brothers University in 1971. There he lettered all 4 years in basketball and baseball. He was the leading rebounder for 3 years and named to the All-Conference team. During college he scored 1,296 career points, top 20 of all-time, with a career 963 rebounds, 2nd all-time. He was MVP and all conference in baseball in 1970-71.

Joe continued his education at the University of Memphis where he graduated with his Masters of Education in 1978. Joe came back to NC to coach the Freshman basketball team to a 9th Region win with a record of 23-3 in 1974. He then went to teach at the Christian Brothers University where he was head baseball coach from 1974-1999. He coached 1,151 games with a record of 589-556-6. Joe was also Assistant Basketball Coach for 4 years and head basketball coach for 4 years at the University. He was named the Assistant Director of Athletics in 1995 and in 2003 he was named the Director of Athletics at the Christian Brothers University, a position he is presently still holding. Joe and his wife of 34 years, Carol Phillips, are blessed with 2 children William Russell Nadicksbernd (29) and Jay Spencer Nadicksbernd (26).

" I had a great experience at Newport Catholic, especially with the Christian Brothers. That connection led me to Memphis and CBU where I have been for 35 years as a student, athlete, coach and now administrator. I will never forget my years at NewCath

and thank all the people that helped me along the way. I am sincerely honored for this induction into the NCHS Athletic Hall of Fame".

JOHN GROSS ~ 1959

John grew up in Newport where he attended Corpus Christi Grade School. In 1955 he made the move to Newport Catholic where he lettered 3 years in Basketball and Baseball. His athletic contributions to the teams were a great asset. His senior year he was named as honorable mention to the All State team. John went on to Thomas More where he lettered all 4 years in basketball. In 1963 he graduated from Thomas More and came back to Newport Catholic as teacher and coach. He taught from 1963-68 was assistant coach in basketball, baseball and Freshman Football. After a 3 year head coaching job at Bellevue he came back to NC as head basketball coach and business teacher from 1973 -1978. He continued his coaching and teaching in the Campbell County school district and finished as assistant principal and then principal of Newport Middle School 1993-2000. During his coaching and teaching reign he was awarded Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, Ninth Region Coach of the Year twice, he brought in two 9th Region Championships at NC along with many District wins. In 1994, John was inducted into the Athletic Directors Hall of Fame. John is now retired and residing in Hebron with his wife Rose. He has been blessed with 1 daughter, 2 sons and 5 grandchildren.

TOMMY MATTHEWS ~ 1947 (*posthumously*)

Tom Matthews graduated from NCHS in 1947. He lettered all four years in baseball, football, and basketball. He was awarded the All Star Trophy in his senior year. He had contracts with the New York Giants and the Detroit Tigers. He played semi-pro ball for Six Ward Boosters and the Newport Steelers.

In the 1970's, he coached a team for Short Term/Long Term of the mentally and physically challenged. He was so proud to help these children.

Tom went to work at Roadway Express in 1948 and retired in 1991. He was very proud of the fact that he had a record of twenty-five years, and over a million miles, of safe driving.

Tom was married to Angela Baltera Matthews since August 19, 1950. They have four children and nine grandchildren. Tom passed away on February 19, 1999.

COACH JIM CONNOR AWARD

BROTHER JOE WILHELM ~ 1940

Brother Joe was a long-standing coach and faculty member here at Newport Catholic. He came to us in the mid sixties and assisted on many levels with coaching. He was Jr. Varsity Baseball Coach and assisted Jim Connor with Varsity Baseball. Upon Coach Connors departure he took the reign of Head Baseball Coach where he led the Thoroughbreds to state 2 years in a row. The baseball team won the GCL in 1968 against powerhouses like Moeller & Xavier. Br. Joe also coached freshman football for 2 years; he remembers their biggest win was a 6-0 defeat of Elder in the "Pit". Br. Joe was a versatile athlete and a great coach. He could apply his talents to teach any sport. He didn't stop coaching when the school year ended either. He coached summer baseball leagues going up against teams that housed players like Buddy Bell. But what he was best known for was Wrestling. Br. Joe not only began the sport at NC he started wrestling in all of Northern Kentucky. You could say he was a pioneer of Wrestling. He first got his start in St. Paul; he led his team to championships of the Big Ten and NCAA Jr. Heavy Champs. He worked hard to excel in the sport and coaching it by attending summer clinics at Iowa State.

All of his hard worked paid off and he was very successful with beginning the wrestling program in Northern Kentucky. He guided the NewCath team to a 1967 State Team Championship and dominated the region for many years. For many consecutive years his team was among the top 5 in the state. There were always 4-6 wrestlers that went to state to participate on an individual level. Br. Joe was a very influential coach. The students respected him and admired his talent. His teaching has brought a number of NewCath Alumni wrestling coaches to the Northern Kentucky High Schools. As stated by one of his past wrestlers - "He is the most honest person I know. He was a very fair coach. He knew how to instruct the kids even on nutrition: what they should eat to stay healthy, what vitamins to supplement their diet with. He looked out for the best interest of the athlete." He had confidence in his athletes and could see a hidden talent and bring it out. Brother Joe had very innovative techniques of coaching and he cared about people. He was a hands-on coach, always showing and not just telling. He spoke to everyone on the same level. Even when it came down to nicknames - everyone had their own. Even though he wouldn't put up with goof offs in his class or in his coaching he became your friend. Brother Joe is a very disciplined man and his strong will, dedication, and talent has made him a much deserving recipient of the Coach Connor Award.

Brother Joe is presently residing at Carmel Manor recovering from an illness. He is now back to his running and weight lifting regimen. Even in his rehabilitation he would call on the sick counseling them and consoling. It is with great honor that we present the Coach Connor award to Brother Joe Wilhelm.

FR. JOHN HEGENAUER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

PAUL BUEMI JR. ~ 1950

Paul graduated from Newport Catholic from its' 9th and Isabella location in 1950. During his 4 years in school he was football manager, basketball manager, and cheerleader. Paul went on to join the Navy after graduation and married Pat Campbell to begin his family.

It is Paul's' post graduating years for which we honor him tonight. Paul is the recipient of the Fr. Hegenauer Community Service Award. He has selflessly dedicated 47 years of his life to the NC Booster Organization. He was the complete backbone of the concessions and most Booster activities. His allegiant service has brought the Booster club where it is today. His diligent control over the bar management, men's stag, golf outing and more; has earned him his title of "The Commander". The Commander has stocked, counted, sold, cooked, cleaned, organized and counted again for 47 years. Whether it was a basketball game, football game, volleyball, reunion, stag, stagette, Mother's Club activity, 500 club dinner, fireworks fest, play gala or an open house; Paul was always there offering his services opening the bar and preparing refreshments for all that attended. When he wasn't tending the bar he was always busy gathering donations for the next upcoming event, for all of that and more we thank him. In addition to all the work as Bar Manager, Paul has also been one of the top ticket sellers in the NCC 500 club for the past 20 years. Paul retired from the Booster Bar last April and now enjoys more time on the golf course. He is still an active Booster and still lends a hand where needed, especially with his secret turtle soup recipe. Pat and Paul have raised 9 kids, all who have graduated from NC and OLP.

It is with great honor that the Booster's present the Fr. Hegenauer award to one of our own: for all his service to the club and his commitment to honor and dedication.

TEAM OF DISTINCTION

1946 STATE CHAMPION BASEBALL TEAM

Tonight we honor the 1946 State Champion Baseball team as our Team of Distinction. The team's record was 15 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie. On the road to the state championship the Thoroughbreds earned four shut-out wins. During the season, the team amassed 174 total runs and their opponents only managed 32 total runs. The team was led by Coach Lou Arnzen to the school's first ever State Championship. Much credit for the success of the team is also given, to then, Athletic Director Fr. John Hegenauer for bringing interscholastic athletics back to Newport Catholic in 1944. Members of this 1946 State Champion Team include:

Herman Lorenz†	Bob Mader
Tom Matthews†	Jack Burns†
Joe Beck	Ted Steggeman†
Jack Macke	Tom Connett†
Leo Groeschen	Elmo Bezold
Gene Neises	Bill Hagedorn†
Tom Beck†	Tom Bankemper
Dick Ziegler	John Riedinger
Tom Ryan†	Tom Beck, Manager

Over the years, as the lives of these men have taken different paths they have continued to "come back" to reunite with one another and their families in celebration of not just a great season of Thoroughbred Baseball but a lifetime of friendship and camaraderie.

† Deceased