

SPOTSWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2005

The inaugural class of the SHS Athletics Hall of Fame consists of eight athletes and two contributors. The class represents the time period from the high school's opening in September of 1976 to June of 1995. Listed in this booklet are thumbnail sketches of each individual's accomplishments. They are truly an impressive group of men and women because they represent the earliest period in the history of a very young school. Their achievements have established a foundation for a tradition of excellence on the playing fields. It is the hope of the committee that in honoring these individuals for their exploits, an athletic tradition will be established for coming generations of young men and women who will aspire to join them.

ATHLETES

VICKY DUTKA Track and Field 1986-1990

A jumper, hurdler and sprinter, Vicky Dutka won 15 medals in NJSIAA Championship meets. This total includes two Group 1 titles in the High Jump (1989, 1990); four Central Jersey, Group 1 championships; and a total of fifteen medals in NJSIAA competition. In 1990, Dutka finished fourth in the NJSIAA “Meet of Champions,” the best finish to date of any Charger athlete in this prestigious event. A GMC champion in the High Jump, Dutka was twice voted to the All-GMC team and three times selected All-Blue Division. In dual meets and in invitational meets, she scored consistently in a range of events, including the High Jump, Long Jump, 100M Hurdles and ten different relay events. The Captain of the Winter ('89-'90) and Spring Track teams she was a major contributor to the Spring Track Team's Central Jersey Group 1 Championship.

CHARLIE EIBELER
Basketball, Football
1991-1995

The all-time leading scorer in Boys Basketball history with 1633 points, Charlie Eibeler was named three times to the All-Blue Division team and one time to the All-GMC team. He was named to All-Area and All-Middlesex County teams twice each by “Star-Ledger” and “Home News-Tribune.” He was the first Charger athlete to be selected to play in the New Jersey “North-South All-Star Basketball Game.”

In Football, Eibeler was a three-year starter at Quarterback and Punter. He was twice named to the All-Blue Division team and was named All-GMC as a Punter in 1994. He was selected as Spotswood High School’s “Male Athlete of the Year” in 1995. Following graduation, Eibeler was awarded an NCAA basketball scholarship to Eastern Michigan University.

TRACIE FRYZOWICZ SMITH
Soccer, Track and Field
1986-1990

The top all-around track athlete in school history, Tracie Fryzowicz earned a total of ten medals in NJSIAA championship events, including a first place finish in the 400M hurdles in the 1990 Central Jersey Group 1 meet. She was a truly versatile performer, entering and scoring in almost any event that would help her team to succeed. In fact, her name appears on the school's leader board in no less than twenty individual (7) and relay (13) events. Serving as Captain of the Winter (89-90) and Spring (1990) teams with fellow inductee, Vicky Dutka, Fryzowicz helped the team to a state sectional title. She was a two-time All-Blue performer and was named All-GMC in 1990.

Tracie Fryzowicz was a starter on the 1989 Women's Soccer team, which advanced to the Central Jersey Group 1 Final. She was named Spotswood High School "Female Athlete of the Year" in 1990. Following graduation, she attended Kean College of New Jersey and graduated with a degree in Special Education. She currently teaches in Edison and has coached at both Spotswood and Edison. She resides in Spotswood with her husband, Bill and children, Evie (4) and Timmy (1 ½).

CHERYL KELLER CAPONE, Ph.D
Cross-Country, Track and Field
1986-1989

Her coach considered her to be the top Cross-Country and Distance runner in school history. A look at Cheryl Keller's achievements certainly makes a strong case for this honor. She was the first Spotswood harrier to finish in the Top Ten in the NJSIAA Central Jersey Group 1 meet and at one time held Spotswood High School record at nine different Cross-Country courses. She served as Captain of the Cross-Country, Winter Track and Spring Track teams during the 1988-1989 school year. Keller left SHS as the all-time record holder in the 1600M and 3200M races. She was named All-Blue Division on nine occasions and All-GMC twice.

Cheryl Keller was Spotswood High School's "GMC Scholar-Athlete" in 1989. Following graduation, she attended Trenton State College where she earned eleven Varsity letters in Cross-Country and Track and Field. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of TSC, she attended Pennsylvania State University and earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 1999. Keller resides in Stat College, Pennsylvania with her husband, Dean Capone, Ph.D. and six week old son, Brian.

KEVIN KOBYLINSKI
Baseball, Basketball
1982-1986

A four-year member of the Basketball team, Kevin Kobylinski was the leading scorer in Middlesex County and closing in on 1000 career points when an injury ended his Senior season. Despite the injury, he was still elected to the All-Gold Division team and was named to the All-Area First Team. As a four-year member of the Baseball program, Kobylinski excelled, earning All-GMC and Group 1 All-State Honors in his Senior year. He was awarded an NCAA baseball scholarship to George Mason University in Virginia. Team Captain in 1990, he was named to the “All-Met” team by the “Washington Post” and was named First Team All-South and First Team All-CAS (Colonial Athletic Association).

Kevin Kobylinski graduated from George Mason in 1991 with a degree in Economics. He and his wife, Kristie, have been married for thirteen years and reside in Virginia. He is the father of two children, Lauren and Ty. Kobylinski is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager at the Modelo Brewery and is responsible for sales and marketing in a ten-state area.

JASON KONEK
Basketball, Soccer, Track and Field
1987-1991

Possibly the finest all-around athlete in school history, Jason Konek excelled in three different sports. In Soccer, he was named three times to the All-Blue Division team and once to the All-GMC team. He is the all-time leading scorer in school history with 113 goals. In Basketball, he was named All-Blue Division twice and finished his career with a total of 1013 points.

Astonishingly, he came out for track in his Senior year and set school records in both the High Jump and Long Jump. He finished first or second in four events in the Central Jersey Group 1 meet (HJ, LJ, 100M and 200M) and was named both All-Blue and All-GMC in 1991. He was selected as Spotswood High School's "Male Athlete of the Year" in 1991.

Today, Jason Konek is a Sales Executive for W. B. Mason in Pennsauken, New Jersey. He and his wife, Jennifer, have been married for four years. They are the parents of three children – Aidan, Brady and Codie. He is a member of the Town Council in Fieldsboro, New Jersey.

DREW SCOPELLITI
Basketball, Wrestling
1976-1979

Drew Scopelliti was a standout during the earliest era in Spotswood athletics history. He entered the school when it opened in 1976 and earned six Varsity letters, three in Football and three in Wrestling. He was named to all All-MVC (Mountain Valley Conference) team in both sports three times each and was selected to the “Star-Ledger” Football Group 1 All-State team in 1979. He was also Spotswood’s Bill Denny Scholar-Athlete as a Senior. He held school records for yards gained in a season, as well as for scoring in a career and in a single season.

After graduating, Scopelliti attended Columbia University and played Football for four years and wrestled for three years. He earned a BA in Economics in 1984 and an MBA in Marketing and Finance in 1992. He currently resides in Chicago and works in the banking industry.

EUGENE ZIMMERLINK
Basketball, Football
1977-1981

“Geno” Zimmerlink led Spotswood to its first NJSIAA championship when the Chargers captured the Central Jersey Group 1 Boys Basketball title in March of 1980. A prolific scorer, he led Middlesex County in scoring during the 1980-1981 season with an average of 26.2 points per game and finished his career with 1302 points. At one time he held school records for points scored in a game, and for rebounds in a game, season and career. He was named by the “Star-Ledger” to the Group 1 All-State First-Team twice and to the All-Middlesex First Team twice.

In Football, Zimmerlink held every receiving record conceivable. Not only was he named to every All-Group 1, All-Area and All-County First Team, but he also was selected to play in the NJ North-South All-Star Football Game, the first Charger to receive that honor. For these efforts, he earned a Football scholarship to the University of Virginia. As a Cavalier, he earned four Varsity letters while leading his team in receiving for three years. He was named an Honorable Mention All-American by the Associated Press following the 1984 season and later played for one season with the Atlanta Falcons of the NFL.

CONTRIBUTORS

JOSEPH DiMARIO

Coach DiMario is one of the most colorful figures in Spotswood High School history. Never afraid to voice an opinion or to shrink from a controversy, he is remembered as one of the people who gave the high school its earliest sense of accomplishment. As the first Football coach in school history, he began with a JV program in 1976 and plunged into the world of Varsity football in 1977. An outstanding motivator and technician, he led the Chargers to their greatest season in 1980. That year, the team completed an 8-1 regular season, which included the school's first victory ever against archrival South River, as well as an appearance in the Central Jersey Group 1 playoffs. He retired from coaching in 1982, but remained on the school's faculty for many years as a teacher of Health and Physical education.

Joe DiMario was also an excellent Wrestling coach. He coached the school's teams through 1983, but remained active in the Wrestling community until his untimely death in 1999. Since that year, the friends of Joe DiMario have organized a benefit Golf Outing in his memory and a wrestling quad is held in his honor ever year in Middlesex County.

BRUCE NISSENBAUM

Bruce Nissenbaum coached Cross-Country and Track at Spotswood High School from 1979 to 1997. During that time, he was named “Coach of the Year” by his peers on eight occasions. He coached Blue Division championship teams in Track in both the Winter and Spring of 87-88, 88-89, and 89-90. He 1990 Spring Track Team won the Central Jersey Group 1 Championship, only the second team in any sport in school history to do so at that time.

Coach Nissenbaum’s legacy is superb from the standpoint of his teams’ accomplishments. His philosophy of coaching was founded on the belief that athletics was an integral part of the educational process. To that end, he involved his athletes in almost every aspect of planning workouts and meet strategies. Furthermore, although he was as competitive as any coach can be, he preferred to make athletics fun for his Chargers and, to that end, he was always ready to praise the efforts of every athlete on his teams no matter what the skill or ability level they possessed. His teams were always prepared to compete because he was extremely well-organized and paid attention to every detail of preparation, meet management and record keeping. Retired since 1997, Coach Nissenbaum now resides in Arizona with his wife, Bonnie.