

## **GARY GABBARD ~ 1987**

Gary graduated from NCC in 1987 after earning 9 varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. He was a member of 3 consecutive State Finalist football teams including the 1984 State Champion Team. At the conclusion of his High School career, Gary was given the Walter McGaff Award which honored him as an outstanding Student/Athlete.



Gabbard goes back to pass.

Gary went on to attend Hanover College where he played football and ran track. In football, he earned team MVP after leading the Panthers to the NAIA playoffs. He was also named as an All-Conference as well as All-American Quarterback after guiding Hanover to an undefeated regular season.

In 2004, Gary was featured on the show "Northern Kentucky Sports Legends" which is hosted by Charlie Coleman. He currently works for the United States Postal Service and lives in Dayton with his wife Sara who is a 1995 graduate of NCC. He has three children, Tyler- 15, Macy-7, Trey-6 and Sara is due in July with another.

## **JOHN BRANNEN ~ 1992**

John is a 1992 graduate of Newport Central Catholic. His high school achievements are many. John was named to the 9<sup>th</sup> Region All A Tournament Team his sophomore, junior and senior years. He led his team to back to back All A Regional titles in 1991 & 1992. In addition he was named to the 9<sup>th</sup> Region 1<sup>st</sup> Team his junior year. During his senior season his accomplishments included being named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All State by the Louisville Courier-Journal, the Kentucky Post 9<sup>th</sup> Region Player of the Year, NKAC Player of the Year, 1<sup>st</sup> Team 9th Region, and 9<sup>th</sup> Region All A Classic MVP.

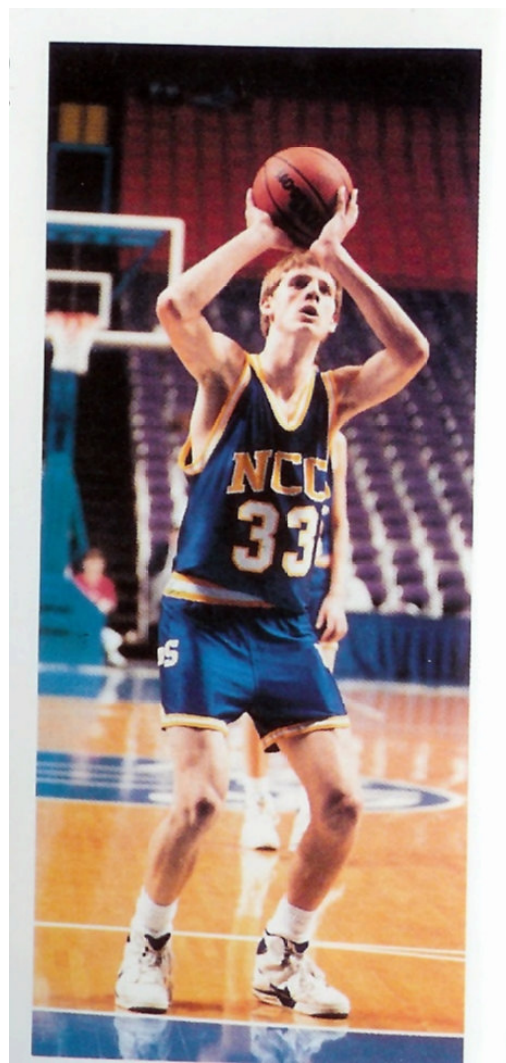
At the end of John's high school career he was the All Time Leading Scorer in NCC history and is now 2<sup>nd</sup> with 1933 career points. He was member of the Kentucky All Star Team. John is also among the top five leaders in All Time career Rebounds with 726. He is at the top of the NCC record books for highest career average of points per game (21.5). He holds the record for most points scored in a season 814 and points per game in a season 26.3. He is currently ranked third at NCC for Free Throw % in a year at 83%.

In 2000, John was selected to the 9<sup>th</sup> Region All Century Team. And most recently, in 2006, he was named as a Top 100 Player of All Time in the Greater Cincinnati area.

John continued his basketball career at Marshall University. He was named captain of the team two consecutive years in 1996 and 1997. In 1997 he earned a spot on the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Conference. That same year he was the leading scorer in the Southern Conference and was ranked 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation with an average of 20.9 points per game. John was named the Marshall University Male Athlete of the Year in 1997. His college career culminated when he was named a Top 40 Player of All Time and was selected to the Marshall University All Century Team

After college, John played professional basketball for Antwerp Belgium in the European League. In 1998 he was named a Belgian All Star. He led his team to the Championship Series of the Belgian League in both 1998 and 1999.

John married Lisa Elswick from Jenkins, KY. They are the proud parents of two beautiful 9 month old twin daughters Katelyn and Jaylee Brannen. The Brannen family currently resides in Richmond, VA where John is the assistant men's basketball coach at Virginia Commonwealth University.



## **TOM BANKEMPER ~ 1949**

Tom graduated from Newport Catholic in 1949. He played baseball for four years and was a member of the 1946 State Championship Team as a freshman. In addition he played basketball for four years. During his senior year he was named 1<sup>st</sup> team for the Catholic League, 1<sup>st</sup> team NKAC and Honorable Mention All Sate. During his senior year he averaged 7 points a game and scored in every game.

After graduation he spent two years in the Marine Corps from 1951-1953. In 1955 he married Pat Welte. They have six children, all who are graduates of NC, OLP, or NCC. They have been blessed with 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Tom refereed high school basketball for 17 years. He was the Assistant Coach for Girls Softball at NCC for 14 years. During that time the team won two state championships. He is a Kentucky Colonel and has been a member of the NCC Boosters for a few years. He currently enjoys watching his grandchildren play sports. (And most importantly, he is the greatest Dad in the whole world!)

TOM BANKEMPER  
Center Field



## **JODY KLARE RODRIGUEZ ~ 1993**

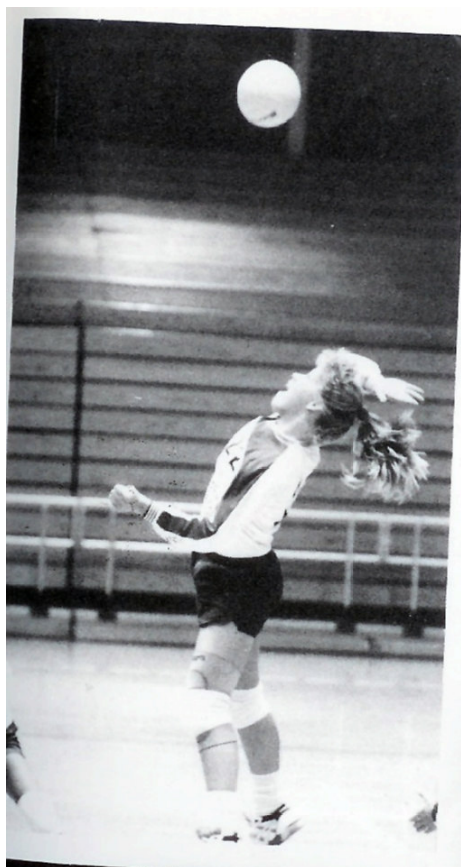
Jody Klare Rodriguez is the daughter of Linda '66 and Joe Klare '67. She was the fourth of her siblings to graduate from NCCHS. Her siblings, Joe, Jamie, Jason, Julie, Jeff all graduated from NCCHS and her younger sister Jaclyn is currently a junior.

Jody Klare Rodriguez graduated of NCCHS in 1993. She played volleyball under Coach Jenny Mertle and Basketball under Coach Carl Foster. She was elected captain of both teams.

In basketball, Jody was named Region 9 all tournament team in both 1992 & 1993. She also led the region in rebounds for the 1991/1992 season.

In volleyball, Jody's dominant sport, she was named to Region 5 all tournament teams in 1991 and 1992, All State team in 1992, along with numerous all tournament teams. She was named Famous Recipe "Star of The Week" her Junior & Senior seasons and received the Northern Kentucky High School girl's coach's association award for player of the year in both 1991 and 1992. In her senior year, Jody broke Newport Central Catholic's school record for most kills.

Jody received a full four-year scholarship for volleyball to the University of Dayton where she earned a Bachelors Degree in Psychology in 1997. She played volleyball all four years and was elected captain her senior year at UD. When Jody graduated from the University of Dayton in 1997 she was among the Top 10 All Time leaders in kills. Jody went on to graduate from the University of Kentucky with her Masters in Social Work. She currently resides in Crescent Springs, with her husband Willie Rodriguez and their three children, Alexes (5 years old), Sofia (2 years old) and Willie (1 year old). Jody and Willie are expecting their fourth child the end of May. Jody works part-time at Shiners Hospital in Cincinnati.



## **MARK KREBS ~ 1973**

Mark graduated in 1973 from Newport Catholic High School. Playing for Coach Ron Albrinck, he lettered in basketball from 1971-1973. He played baseball under Coach Bob Schneider from 1971-1973, lettering in each of those years.

In basketball, Mark was a member of the 1973 Regional Championship Team that included John Wehage and Bob McSorley who also graduated in 1973. During that year, he received awards for All District Team, All Regional Team, Regional All Stars, and All State Honorable Mention. He is also proud to be a part of the elite 1000 Point Club at NewCath.

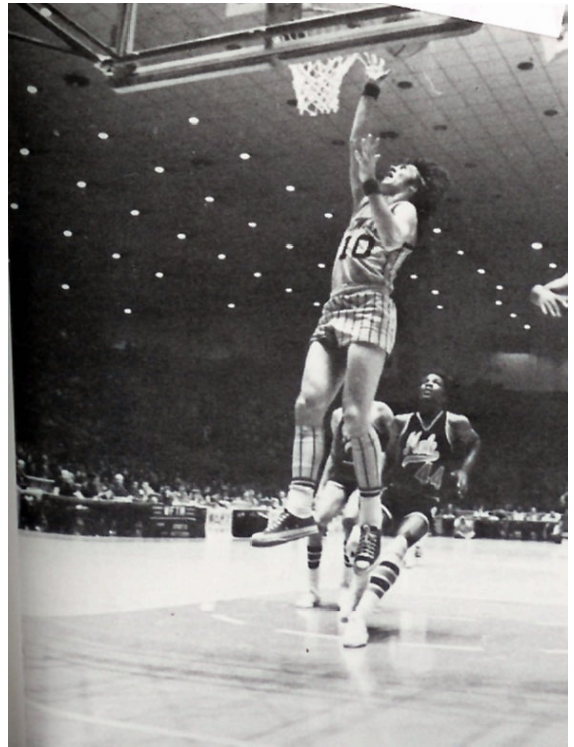
Mark received a scholarship to play college basketball at Thomas More College under Coach Jim Weyer (NewCath HOF member) with fellow graduates Bob McSorley and John Wehage. They were later joined by Ron Dawn to complete a very unique college basketball career by also playing on the same high school team.

After college, Mark started his basketball coaching career at NCC from 1977-1989. From 1985-1989, he had the honor of coaching the Thoroughbred Varsity Basketball Team. He was awarded the Regional and Conference Coach of the Year honor in 1985-86. In 1998, he was voted into the Athletic Directors Hall of Fame.

Mark continued to coach basketball from 1990-1997 at neighboring Newport High School. Once again he was fortunate to work with Mr. Jim Weyer who was the Athletic Director at Newport high School. Today, he remains at Newport High School as Assistant Principal.

Mark lives in Newport with his wife of 25 years Terri, daughter Mandy, and two sons Mark Jr. and Andrew.

Mark Jr. is currently a member of the University of Kentucky Wildcat Basketball Team as a Red Shirt / Transfer who ended a very successful Thoroughbred Basketball career in 2005.



## **KENNETH J. GALLICHIO ~ 1971**

Kenneth graduated in 1971 from Newport Catholic High School and lettered in running track for three years under Coach David Ueding. Ken won the state title in the 100 yard dash and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 220 yard dash. In addition, his relay team placed at the top as well.

Ken and his wife, Henrietta, have six children and nine grandchildren. He worked for Gold Medal Products for almost 26 years, when he decided that he had worked long enough and retired this past December.

Ken attends daily Mass at St. Paul Church where he is an adult server and Eucharistic minister. He is also a volunteer chaplain at St. Luke Hospital West in Florence, KY.



## JOHN WEHAGE ~ 1973

John graduated in 1973 from Newport Catholic High School. He played basketball and lettered for two years and was elected tri-captain his senior year along with Mark Krebs and Bob McSorley under Coach Ron Albrinck. His team was the first of the 1973, 1974, and 1975 teams to win ninth region championships and go onto the state tournament. John was voted 9<sup>th</sup> Region player of the year his senior year and was selected 3<sup>rd</sup> team All-State by the Louisville Courier Journal. In addition, John lettered three years in baseball as a pitcher and first baseman for coaches Jim Callahan and Bob Schneider.

After high school, John attended Thomas More College and played both baseball and basketball for Coach Jim Weyer. He lettered all four years in basketball and graduated in 1977 with a B.A. degree in Business Administration. He went on to work at AT&T as a data processing engineer and in 1983 married Susan Yeager, a 1977 graduate of OLP. Susan has been an RN at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati for the last 26 years. They have two daughters, Maggie, 21, (a student at the University of Louisville) and Molly, 16, (a sophomore in high school). John has two nephews who attended NCC and played sports. Eric Vieth '92 played for Coach Ron Dawn and Sam Beiting '99 played football for Coach Schneider and went on to play at Centre College and is currently the head freshman football coach here at NCC.



The Wehage family lives in Ft. Thomas and belongs to St. Therese parish in Southgate. John recently retired from AT&T after 28 years and has taken on a new position at Convergys Corporation. He is a member and volunteer at the Campbell County YMCA and enjoys playing golf and still plays some basketball in his spare time.

## **COACH JIM CONNOR AWARD**

Coach Connor influenced the lives of athletes and students who made their journey through Newport Catholic during the 1950's and 60's. Everyone from that era of sports and education mentions Coach Connor: a Coach who affected the lives of many and stands tall as a man who dedicated his life to education, athletics and the service of others.

This award is given to an individual who mirrors those values and character; the values of the family that we at NCC strive to teach and live.

## **CHARLIE FREDRICK ~ 1955**

Charlie is a 1955 graduate of Newport Catholic High School. His class was the first to graduate from the "School on the Hill." He played three years of football and four years of basketball. During the 1954 football season, Charlie was one of the leading rushers in Northern Kentucky. He received honorable mention all state and was the recipient of the NC Walter McGaff Award.

Along with teammate, Joe King, Charlie attended the University of Notre Dame on a football scholarship. He played for Coach Terry Brennen until his junior year when an injury sidelined him. He then became an assistant coach for the Irish freshman football team. After graduation in 1959, Charlie spent 38 years in secondary education. He started at Weber High School in Chicago and returned to NC as Assistant Football Coach in 1960 and became Head Coach in 1961. With assistant coach Bob Schneider, the 1965 football team defeated Highlands on their own turf. It was their first home loss since 1956. That season NC was ranked #1 in the state by the Litkenhous Ratings. This team also made it to the playoffs and lost in the second round. After the season, Charlie was honored by Pepsi as one of the top football coaches in the state. Charlie also started the track and field program at NC. The 1963 team was Regional Runner-Up and the 1964 team won the Regional Championship. The team had outstanding 400 and 1600 relay teams.



Charlie left NC and went to Highlands High School as an assistant football coach for one year. He became the head football coach at Greenhills High School in 1967 and the athletic director in 1969. In 1971, he became the athletic coordinator for the Greenhills Forest Park City School District where he had a long and successful career.

In 1981 Charlie was named Southwest Ohio Athletic Director of the year. He received the Ohio Athletic Association Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award in 1990. He

was named to the Ohio High School Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame in 1994. Charlie was the first inductee into the Winton Woods Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Northern Kentucky Hall of Fame. The year Charlie retired, the Winton Woods Board of Education renamed the Winton Woods Stadium the Charlie Fredrick Stadium.

Charlie was active in both school and community affairs. He managed numerous Ohio High School tournaments as well as annual food, coat and money drives for the needy.

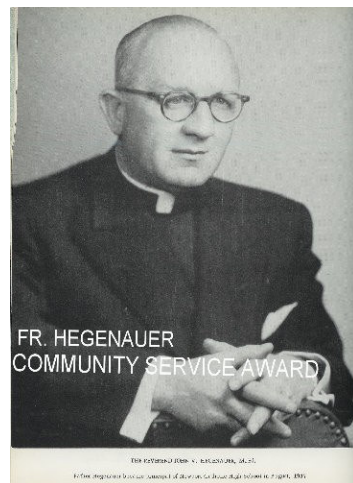
Charlie is married to the former Mary Jo Hayes, his high school sweetheart and a Newport Catholic cheerleader. They have four children and eleven grandchildren.

As a student, teacher and coach, Charlie is very grateful for the outstanding examples of Christian leadership and dedication to duty he received from the NC faculty, students and his coach and mentor, Mr. Jim Connor.

## **FR. JOHN HEGENAUER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

This award is to be given to a person who has demonstrated his commitment to his community and to the family values that Newport Central Catholic High School strives to impart to its students.

This award honors the memory of Fr. Hegenauer who was a dedicated priest of the Diocese of Covington from 1940 to his death in 1998. He governed over NC as principal from 1947 to 1964; during which time he accomplished much as a vicar of education. He was an innovator: he instilled great wisdom and pride in the students of NC through scholastic and athletic achievements. His commitment to Catholic Education was a reflection of his life and dedication to his faith. His legacy to NCC is reflective of his love of his people who returned their love and respect for him as a priest and educator.



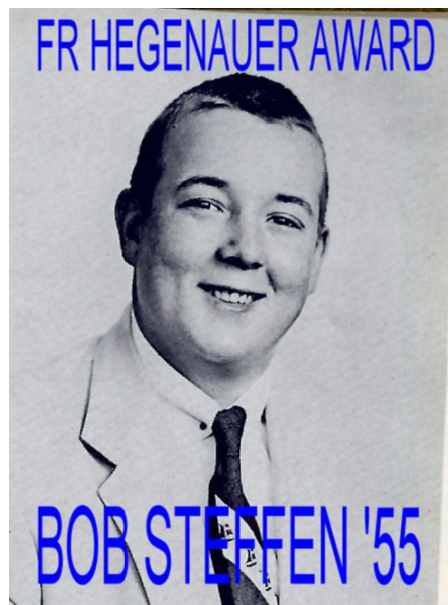
## **BOB STEFFEN ~ 1955**

Bob was one of eight Steffen children born on Putnam Street in Newport. He still lives in the same home where he and his siblings were born. After graduation from Newport Catholic in 1955, Bob worked as a carpenter for 25 years. He then worked as a deputy sheriff for 18 years.

Bob's mother spent the last eight months of her life at Lakeside Nursing Home and Bob saw the need to bring cheer to the many residents there. In 1987, what started out as small as giving a gift to each resident that Christmas grew into an organization called Big Stef, Inc. which now has several hundred members. Bob and the Big Stef crew visit eight area nursing homes and homes for senior citizens twice a year with bingo, singing and meals provided.

At Christmas time, 400 food baskets are delivered to the needy of Newport and other local cities. At least 100 people are involved in the packing and delivering of the food baskets. For several years they have had Back To School Day for under privileged children in West Newport.

After a year of recovering from a very severe case of the West Nile virus, Bob and friends are back in business helping others. And Bob has returned to his 9<sup>th</sup> year of mentoring school children in the Helping One Student To Succeed (HOSTS) program at Fourth Street Elementary.



## TEAM OF DISTINCTION

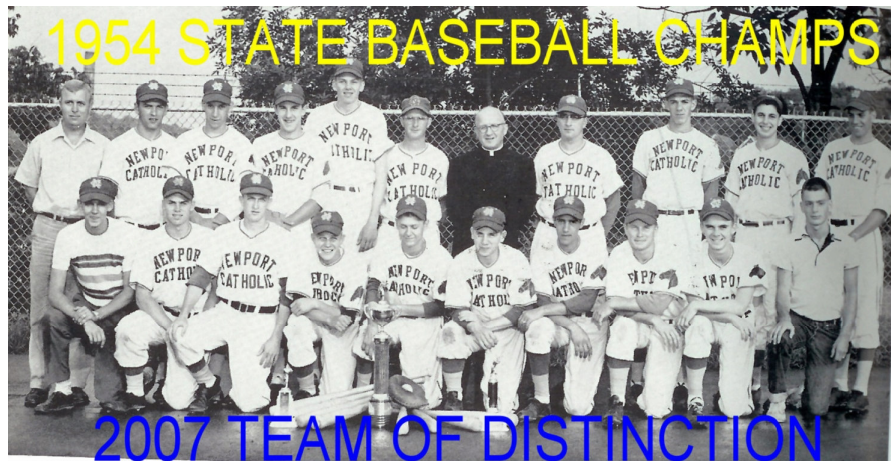
### 1954 STATE CHAMPION BASEBALL TEAM

We honor the 1954 baseball state champions as the 2007 "Team of Distinction". The team's record was 25-8 and the 2nd consecutive year for the team to win the Region. Post season play took the Thoroughbreds to four shut-out wins. They won the District and Region with some impressive stats; one being a 3 game winning streak with no errors. The game that took them to state was tied up 2-2; bottom of the 7th, with Frank Pangallo at the plate who hit a homerun to win the game and send them to the State Tournament. Their first round in State, Jack Woods pitched a no-hitter against Madisonville. They won their final game with a shut-out against Louisville Mayo 6-0. The 3 top hitters on their tour to victory were Jim Weyer .555, Ralph Carr .444, and Dick Hehman .444. Over the course of the year Larry Uebel's pitching record was 8-1. The team was led by Coach Jim Connor and Coach Neal Connor.

Members of the 1954 State Champion Team include:

**Paul Burke**  
**George Schneider**  
**Dick Hehman**  
**Lefty Meyer**  
**Larry Uebel**  
**Frank Pangallo**  
**Jim Weyer**  
**Jack Woods**  
**John Lothar**  
**Dave Brockman**

**Stan Beiting**  
**Larry Staverman**  
**Stan Gish**  
**Carl Volpenhein**  
**Ralph Carr**  
**Bob Blanchet, Manager**  
**Joe McCarthy, Manager**  
**Walt Enzweiler, Trainer**  
**Neal Connor, Assistant Coach**  
**Jim Connor, Head Coach**



*"Champs of Kentucky"*

Front row, left to right: Bob Blanchet, Mgr., Paul Burke, George Schneider, Dick Hehman, "Lefty" Meyer, Larry Uebel, Frank Pangallo, Jim Weyer, Jack Woods, Joe McCarthy, Manager, Second row: Walt Enzweiler, Trainer; John Lothar, Dave Brockman, Stan Beiting, Larry Staverman, Neal Connor, Assistant Coach; Fr. Hegenauer, Jim Connor, Coach; Stan Gish, Carl Volpenhein, Ralph Carr.