

JIM BRIEDE – 1954

Jim Briede participated in football and basketball for the Newport Catholic Thoroughbreds. He earned varsity letters in both sports during his junior and senior years.

Jim was recognized statewide on the basketball court. Newport Catholic had one of the best teams in the state in 1953 and 1954. Jim gained nationwide recognition by being named to the All-Catholic All-American team in 1953 and was honored by being selected to the KHSAA Kentucky State All-Tournament team in 1953.

After high school, Jim continued playing softball, basketball, and football for local teams. He loved attending the Sweet 16 Basketball Tournaments each year.

Jim was inducted into the Northern Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Hall of Fame on June 11, 1992.

STEPHANIE DESMOND – 1995

Stephanie Desmond was a member of the 1993-94 and 1994-95 varsity girls basketball team and a 1995 graduate of Newport Central Catholic. In her time at NCC, she was a part of two fantastic teams. In her senior year, the team won the All A 9th Region Tournament making it to the second round of the All A State Tournament before losing to Louisville Holy Cross. The team also won back to back district titles qualifying the team to play in the regional tournament.

As an individual, she was recognized as the following. She was named to the 9th Region All Tournament team and the All 9th Region First Team. In her senior season, she also was named All A 9th Region Tournament MVP and All A State Tournament Team. Stephanie was the 9th Region Senior Player of the Year following the '94-'95 season. She accumulated the following statistics while at NCC. She tallied a total of 1,310 points (4th all time) and 631 rebounds (6th all time). She holds the NCC Girl's All Time record for points scored in a season with 716 in 94-95 and the 4th All Time Season Point Total with 594 in the '93-'94 season. Additionally, Stephanie has the 3rd All Time Point Total in a game with 37 and the 4th All Time Rebound per Game Total with 18. Following those seasons, she was awarded the Loyce Meadows Award for student athletes and was named to the 1995 Louisville Courier Journal Second Team and to the Lexington Herald All State Team.

Stephanie then attended Transylvania University on a basketball scholarship but transferred to Thomas More College in her sophomore year, later receiving a full academic scholarship. At Thomas More, she was a starter on the women's basketball team that reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Division III Tournament. She graduated from Thomas More with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and went to work for Desmond Insurance for the next 6 years. In 2005 Stephanie left Northern Kentucky for graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin where she met her husband, Charles Wood, while earning a Master of Business Administration degree. After graduating from UT, she accepted a marketing position at Dell, Inc. where she has worked since. Recently, the Wood family moved from Austin to Dallas, TX as a result of the relocation of Charlie's job with AT&T. Stephanie has maintained her role with Dell

but is now working remotely. Stephanie and Charlie welcomed their first child, Harper, into the world on December 23rd, 2007.

GARY DEVOTO - 1975

Gary Devoto graduated from Newport Catholic in 1975. While at NC, he was a member of the 1973, 1974 and 1975 9th Region Champion basketball teams.

In 1974, as a junior, Gary was named to the NIT all tournament team as well as the District and Regional all tournament teams. He scored 23 points (21 in the first half) and had 16 rebounds in the regional finals to help lead the Thoroughbred's to its second straight regional championship. The Bred's won their first game in the state tournament over Monticello but lost in quarterfinals to Warren East. He finished his junior season averaging 13 points and 12 rebounds per game as well as shooting 50% from the field and 70% from the free throw line.

In 1975, as a senior, Gary was again named to the NIT, District and Regional all tournament teams. He scored 21 points and had 11 rebounds in the regional finals leading Newport Catholic to its 3rd straight regional championship and another trip to the "Sweet Sixteen" at Freedom Hall in Louisville, KY. NewCath won their first game over Bath County but lost in the quarterfinals to Henry Clay. He scored 32 points and collected 18 rebounds in the two games and was named to the "All State Tournament Team". Gary finished his senior season averaging a double – double for the second straight year with 18 points and 13 rebounds per game while shooting 46% from the field and 72% from the free throw line. He was named "1st Team All Region". In 2000, he was one of 140 players named by the Kentucky Post to the "All Century Team".

Gary attended Northern Kentucky University and graduated from there in 1980 with a B.A. in Music. For 29 years, he has been providing music lessons and teaching music classes. In fact, he has been teaching music lessons as well as coordinating music for the school liturgies since 1992. Then in 2000, he began teaching music classes at NCC.

Over the last twenty years, his company, Gary Devoto & Associates, has provided and continues to provide music lessons to thousands of students at several parochial and public schools in Northern Kentucky. Gary continues to perform music professionally playing solo as well as with fellow NC grad Dave Webster. In 2006, they released an original CD, "Take Or Leave It". (It's great...you should add it to your collection).

Gary and his wife, Teena, were married in 1987 and have two boys, Connor and Brennan. Connor is a junior at NCC and Brennan is an 8th grader at St. Catherine of Siena. Today, they live in Highland Heights, KY.

MIKE KIERNAN – 1981

Mike Kiernan attended Newport Catholic High School from 1977-1981. While at NC, Mike played various sports and lettered in Football, Wrestling, and Baseball. He was a Member of the All-State Football Team in 1979 & 1980. His senior year, he won an All American Honorable Mention. He was also named as Northern Kentucky's Top 22 in Football 1979 & 1980. Later, Mike was inducted into the Northern Kentucky Hall of Fall in 1990.

Mike also had an outstanding academic career. He won the Academic Leadership Award his senior year and earned a full scholarship to the University of Notre Dame in 1981. He was ranked 7th out of 112 students.

During his freshman year in college, Mike had the most playing time as a Defensive Lineman and was penciled in as the starting nose tackle going into the spring. He injured his knee that February playing basketball and would not return to the playing field until his junior year. He proceeded to Letter the following two years and won the Defensive Player of the Game Award against the Missouri Tigers in 1985. He had tryouts with the Washington Redskins and Miami Dolphins after his career at Notre Dame. Mike graduated with a BBA in Accounting with a Mathematics Minor from the University of Notre Dame and then went on to obtain a Teaching Certificate from St. Mary's College.

Mike currently enjoys strength training the boys and girls varsity basketball teams at Newport Central Catholic. He is employed by Jess Jewelry Design in Kenwood, as their Inventory Controller. He has been with them for over ten years.

Mike married Deanna Plummer in 1987 and has three beautiful children, Zachary, Jacob and Nicole. Zachary currently plays football for the University of Louisville on a full scholarship. Jacob is a senior at NCC and Nicole is in the 7th grade at St. Joseph School in Cold Spring.

MIKE NOLAN - 1971

Mike Nolan graduated from Newport Catholic in 1971. He was a 2-time regional champion and a 2-time state champion in wrestling. He was named Most Improved Wrestler in 1969 and Most Valuable Wrestler in 1971. Mike was voted by coaches throughout the state as the Most Outstanding Wrestler in the 1971 State Tournament by having only 2 points scored against him and pinning his opponent from Louisville Trinity in the finals in just over 2 minutes. Mike also participated in other sports including football, baseball, and track.

After graduation, Mike started his career as an apprentice with Pipefitters Union Local 392 in Cincinnati. He just recently retired after 35 years of service. Mike and Julie, his wife of 25 years, his son Michael and daughter Kelly reside in California, Kentucky.

DAN TOMBRAGEL - 1969

Dan Tombragel was a three year starter as a catcher on baseball teams that went to the state tournament in 1967 and 1968. He was also a two year starter in basketball. Dan received various awards in both sports. The most significant award was being acknowledged as honorable mention to the Kentucky All-State Basketball Team but, more importantly, he earned a full four year athletic scholarship to play basketball and baseball at Thomas More College.

After graduating from Newport Catholic in 1969, Dan was the starting catcher for the national champions Wilson Freight 18 year old baseball team. Two of Dan's friends and roommates that summer were former major league stars, Buddy Bell and Dave Parker.

Dan graduated from Thomas More College in 1973 with a degree in Accounting and then started with the CPA firm of Mellott & Mellott in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his

CPA certification and was later admitted as a partner. After 30 years, he sold his interest there in order to start his own firm, which he still currently operates.

Dan has served on various non-profit boards over the years including the Business Board at The Children's Hospital. He also coached amateur baseball for ten years.

Dan believes very strongly and is most proud of his family and his professional career. They would not have been possible without the guidance of his parents, Tom and Juanita, as well as other various individuals including Jim Lalley, Bob Boswell Sr., Ron Albrinck, Brother Joe and the entire staff at Newport Catholic.

He currently resides in Florence, Kentucky with his wife Jackie of 36 years. They have three married children, Jennifer and her husband Chris, Jason and his wife Heather, and DJ and his wife Lindsay. They have two special grandkids, Luke and Ava, and one on the way.

FR. JOHN HEGENAUER COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

This award is to 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 and 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 for his people who returned their love and respect for him as a priest and educator.

CARL HECK – 1968

Carl Heck graduated from Newport Catholic in 1968. He was a starter at nose-guard, as a Junior, on the 1966 Varsity team, which was Coach Schneider's first year as Head Coach. In 1967, his senior season, he was a starter at guard on offense and as a linebacker on defense. Carl was named to the 2nd team Louisville Courier Journal All State team and received Honorable Mention on the Lexington Herald Leader All State team.

He entered the United States Marine Corps in 1969 and reached the rank of Sergeant in less than 2 years. He received an Honorable Discharge from the Marines in May of 1971.

Carl coached football at the grade school level in Ft. Thomas and in 1982 was asked to join the varsity staff at Newport Catholic. He remained a full time Varsity coach until 1990, when due to a job change, he could only remain as a part time coach. He joined the freshman coaching staff in 2002 and continues to do so today. Additionally, he coaches on the sidelines with the varsity as well as drives the bus for the football team. He has been with the football program for all of the 9 State Championship games.

He started his involvement with the Girls' basketball team at NCC in 1987, operating the scoreboard for home games when Sandi Woeste was the head coach. In 1988 under head coach Carl Foster, he became the scorekeeper and bus driver for the girls' team. He continued that for the 12 years Christie McDonald was head coach and is currently a member of Ron Dawn's coaching staff. Carl has been with the team for seven 9th Region "All A" titles and for the 2003 and 2005 9th Region titles.

Carl donates blood platelets at Hoxworth Blood Center frequently and is currently the 3rd highest donor in Northern KY having donated over 38 gallons of blood. He has worked at Maxim Crane in Wilder, KY for 19 years, currently as the Permit Director.

He and his wife, Sally, have been married for 39 years. Their son, Brian, is a 1989 graduate of NCC and resides in Hebron, KY with his wife, Kris, and two sons, Owen & Tyler. Their daughter, Wendy, is a 2001 graduate of NCC & resides in Durham, NC with her husband Bill Grillo.

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 Jim Connor as 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.

RON ALBRINCK ('61 – '73)

Ron Albrinck graduated from Roger Bacon in 1957, from Thomas More College in 1961 and from Xavier University in 1970 with a Masters in Education Administration. He has been married to his wife Sally for 45 years and they have 5 children and 14 grandchildren. His daughter Jill graduated from OLP while Dan, Molly, Andrew and Alison graduated from NCC. He recently retired after working 46 years for the Diocese of Covington in three of our Catholic high schools. In his first 12 years, he was a teacher and coach at Newport Catholic. He served as Principal at St. Henry for 17 years and the last 17 years as teacher, coach, Dean of Discipline and Business Manager at Bishop Brossart.

Ron's athletic career began at Roger Bacon where he was a starting guard on the 1957 GCL Championship basketball team. He then attended Thomas More College with his twin brother, Don. He played on the TMC – KIAC Tourney championship team that participated in the NAIA Tournament in Kansas City. He played for three outstanding coaches in Bron Bacevich (RB), Charley Wolf and Jim Weyer at Thomas More.

Ron started his career at NC and worked with Coach Jim Connor for five years. He became basketball head coach in 1966-67 when Coach Connor took a coaching position at Bellarmine College in Louisville, KY. Ron coached basketball for 12 years at Newport Catholic. In his first five years as head coach, his team participated in the powerful Greater Cincinnati Catholic League. He followed that up with a Regional Runner-up in 1971 and a 9th Region Championship in 1973.

Ron also coached 7 years in Cross-Country with 4 Regional champions and 2 runner-up squads. He even coached the freshmen baseball teams for 3 years. Additional coaching stints included one year as boy's Cross-Country team (first ever) at St. Henry and 3 years as an assistant basketball coach at Bishop Brossart.

Ron currently lives in Cold Spring and is a member of St. Joseph Parish.

TEAM OF DISTINCTION

1967 STATE CHAMPION WRESTLING TEAM



Varsity Wrestling

State Championship Team

BR. JOSEPH

RON NIEPORTE
JOE DIGIACOMO
MIKE FEY
JIM SCHNEIDER
JOE BAUMANN
GARY McGLONE
DENNIS MARTIN

GREG PALMER
DENNIS SCHOFIELD
TOM GOETZ
GEORGE SCHULER
DON PETERS
JIM SCHOMACHER
DENNIS HUBER