

Bruce Carusi '70  
Ron Kenning '50  
Coach Mary Matthews  
Tim O'Hara '77  
Hank Schmidt '49  
Andy Zimmerman '88

Fr. John Hegenauer – Steve Halpin '67  
Coach Jim Connor – Tom Seither '58  
Team of Distinction - 1967 State Champion Track Team

### **BRUCE CARUSI - 1970**

Bruce Carusi graduated from Newport Catholic with the class of 1970. He was a 3-year letterman in football, basketball, and baseball and received a scholarship in football to attend The College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. He lettered at Holy Cross while earning his BA in Economics in 1974 and followed that with an MBA in Finance from the University of Notre Dame in 1976.

During the 1969 football season, Bruce set the school mark for interceptions in a single season with 7 and subsequently held or co-held that mark for 21 years. Those 7 picks contributed to a career mark of 11, a school record until 1983. His interception total is still good for 3<sup>rd</sup> place all time at NCC.

In addition to playing cornerback in 1967 and safety in 1968 and 1969, he played a myriad of different offensive positions: fullback, halfback, slot-back, wide receiver, and tight end. Bruce was also the team's punter, place kicker and one of the return men on special teams. He was named to the All-GCL team at safety following his senior season in 1969.

In basketball, Bruce played both guard and forward. He also played on the 1970 Baseball team where he was recognized as the largest second baseman to play in the GCL at that time.

From 1978 until 1996, Bruce played rugby for the OMEX RFC in New York City and captained the team to a top 10 national ranking.

Bruce worked in the banking and investment business. In 1983, he joined Babcock & Brown and remained there until his retirement in 2007. He is currently a private investor and the President of Big Guy Foundation. He and his wife Sue live in Mill Neck, NY and have 4 children ages 20-26.

## **RON KENNING - 1950**

Ron Kenning was a 1950 graduate of Newport Catholic. He lettered two years in both football and tennis at Newport Catholic, but he really made his mark in basketball. Ron was a three year letterman for the basketball team from 1947-1950. He was a member of the All-Diocesan Team in 1949 and 1950 and actually led the GCL in scoring during the 1949-1950 season. He was inducted into the NKY Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

Ron worked as a food broker and received an award as Retail Broker of the Year. Ron continued his interest in basketball by coaching the Cottage AC Class C team with Mike Warning to a championship. That team played at the American Legion Hall in Newport, where Ron once practiced basketball many years ago while at Newport Catholic. He also coached a team of basketball players from St. Johns Church at the request of Fr. Hanses.

Ron became interested in golf and joined FMCC where he had 5 hole-in-ones: one in 1989, 1990, two in 1998 and the last one in 2003. He and his wife, Mary K, celebrated their 56th anniversary in November.

## **MARY MATTHEWS**

Mary Matthews attended St. Ursula Academy in Toledo, OH and then proceeded to the College of Mount St. Joseph where she graduated in 1972. She has since received her M.ED. from the University of Toledo in 1985 and a School Counselor Certification from Xavier University in 2000.

Since 1979, she has been employed at Purcell Marian High School. She served there as a Health Physical/Education teacher, Assistant Athletic Director, Volleyball, and Softball coach. Mary currently is Director of the Guidance Department there and was inducted into the Purcell Marian High School Hall of Fame in 2009.

Mary's first teaching job in 1972 was at Our Lady of Providence Academy. She taught Health and Physical Education at a school that had no gym but only a carpeted auditorium. The outside facilities included two asphalt volleyball courts. Physical education classes were often down the street at the Newport playground if the weather permitted. There were no extra-curricular sports programs when Mary arrived at OLP. That was 1972 and Title 9 was just being passed to give equal opportunities to women in athletics.

She started athletic programs at OLP one team at a time. The budget was nonexistent for athletics so tennis, the least expensive sport, was started first. Newport's tennis

courts could be used and tennis balls were not too expensive! The following year, volleyball began competitive league play and the home games were played outside on the asphalt courts behind the school. The following two years basketball and softball programs were begun. Mary coached and scheduled all the sports at OLP for the first years until Moe Grosser was hired to coach.

Through those years, the sports programs improved despite no gym facilities available at OLP. The volleyball team began practicing and playing games at St Thomas. Other Newport area gyms were also used from the old Newport Boy's club to Our Lady of the Highlands for basketball practices.

Mary was the head volleyball coach for both the Varsity and JV teams from 1972-1978. She led the teams to many successful seasons. It was her last year coaching at OLP that was most memorable. The 1978 Volleyball team finished as State Runner-Up in the Kentucky Coaches Association Tournament.

Although not coaching today, Mary is still active in supporting athletics at Purcell Marian and in the summer you will find her on the golf course 4 to 5 times a week.

### **TIM O'HARA - 1977**

Tim O'Hara is a 1977 graduate of Newport Catholic. He was a three year letterman in both football and basketball. He was a member of the 1974 35<sup>th</sup> District Champion Football Team and also a player on the 1975 9<sup>th</sup> Region Champion Basketball Team.

In football, Tim was a three year starter at defensive back. He won the Ball Hawk Award as a sophomore for having the most interceptions and fumble recoveries, and as a Junior and Senior he received All-District Honors as a defensive back. He was also a two-year starter at quarterback. As a Senior Co-Captain, he led his 9-2 team in both rushing and passing yards while earning the team's Most Valuable Offensive Player Award. He was also named All-District Quarterback and placed on the All-State Honorable Mention Team.

In basketball, Tim was a member of the Freshmen, Junior Varsity, and Varsity teams that won 9<sup>th</sup> District Titles. As a sophomore guard, Tim was on the 1975 Varsity Team which played in the Sweet Sixteen Tournament before losing in the quarter finals to the eventual State Runner-Up Henry Clay by the score of 72-68. As a senior, Tim was named to the All 35<sup>th</sup> District and All 9<sup>th</sup> Region Defensive Teams. He was also named to the Newport Invitational All-Tournament Team.

For five years, Tim was the head basketball coach of a boys' AAU Basketball Team that won the Kentucky AAU State Tournament and competed in the National Tournament in Greensboro, North Carolina. Many of those players went on to be student-athletes at Newport Central Catholic.

Tim is currently a nineteen year member of the Ninth Region Basketball Officials Association having worked three Sweet Sixteen Tournaments, five All "A" State Tournaments and many District and Regional games. Tim was awarded the first ever "Ninth Region Official of the Year" for the 2007-2008 basketball season. He is also a ten year member of the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference NAIA Men's Officiating Staff. Tim also has been involved with the Special Olympics by giving his time to officiate the State Basketball Tournament for the past nine years. He is a 2008 Inductee of the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame.

Tim and his high school sweetheart, Karen (OLP '77) reside in Newport, KY, and will be celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in March. Their son Jason (NCC '98) resides in San Francisco, CA, and their daughter Megan (NCC '01) resides in Newport, KY, with her husband Dan and son Liam.

### **ANDY ZIMMERMAN - 1988**

Andy Zimmerman graduated from Newport Catholic in 1988. He was a three sport athlete while attending NC. He was a three year letterman in football and basketball, and a four year letterman in baseball.

During his football career, Andy was a member of two State Runner-Up teams in 1985 and 1986. His honors include being named to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team Defense, the Top 22 in Northern Kentucky, the Honorable Mention All State Team Defense, the All Star Team, and the MVP of the City Championship for the Fireman's Bell against Newport High School.

As a three year varsity basketball player, Andy was named to the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Region Team, the All Star team, the Famous Recipe All Star of the Week, and the Top Gun Player of the Week.

Andy also excelled as four year varsity baseball player as an outfielder and pitcher. In fact, he pitched two no-hitters with one of them coming in the 9<sup>th</sup> Region semi-finals. He was recognized on the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Region and on the All Star team.

Baseball earned him a scholarship to college. Andy graduated from Lindsey Wilson College with a bachelor's degree in Human Services. During his college career, he was named a pre-season All American and 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Conference. He was also voted team captain and MVP.

Andy now lives in Cold Spring Kentucky with his wife, Jenny, and 3 daughters Loren, Kacy, and Kara. He works for Lithko Contracting as a safety director and recruiter. For the past 15 years, he has coached youth football for the Campbell County Red Devils.

He also coaches his daughter's teams at Saint Therese in soccer, basketball, and softball.

### **HANK SCHMIDT - 1949**

Hank Schmidt graduated from Newport Catholic in 1949. He played center on the basketball team that finished the season with a record of 24 wins and 2 losses.

He attended John Carroll University in Cleveland, OH on a basketball scholarship. After two plus years, he left school and served two years in the United States Marine Corps.

After his discharge from the Marines, Hank entered Xavier University where he played both baseball and basketball. He graduated from there in 1956 with a Bachelors Degree in Economics.

Following his graduation, Hank joined the securities business as a financial advisor. He currently is a Senior Vice President with UBS in Cincinnati.

Hank is married to his wife, Pat. Together they have three children, eleven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. He and Pat still reside in Cold Spring.

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

#### **STEVE HALPIN - 1967**

Steve Halpin is the oldest son of Tom and Mary Lou Halpin. He was born and raised in Bellevue, KY. Steve attended Sacred Heart grade school and graduated from Newport Catholic in 1967. He began his career at an early age while as a sophomore at NC. Steve received his degree from OMI and OCAS in air conditioning and refrigeration. Now some 45 years later, he continues to work with the same company, Tom Rehtin Heating and Air Conditioning in Bellevue, KY.

In 1968, Steve married Della Caudill, a 1967 graduate of Our Lady of Providence (OLPA). Together they raised two sons, Steve and Scott, who also graduated from NCC. Each son married beautiful, wonderful girls and provided five little ones to make Steve a very proud grandparent.

Steve became an active NCC Booster member in 1980 and continues giving his time under the current program. During these years, he not only held every office several times but also chaired Booster events such as NCC's Annual Stag, Turkey Festival, Night at the Races, and Golf Outings. Steve also helps with concessions for sporting events.

In 2007, Steve Halpin was honored as the recipient of the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education Award naming him "Alumnus of the Year". NCC is forever indebted to his unselfish commitment to the school.

## **COACH JIM CONNOR AWARD**

### **TOM SEITHER - 1958**

Tom Seither graduated from Newport Catholic in 1958 as Salutatorian of his class. He received the Religion, Physics, and Chemistry Awards besides being on Student Council and the basketball team for four years.

Tom had a varied education following his years at NC. He first attended St. Mary's Seminary and then St. Pius X Seminary earning his B.A in Philosophy in 1962. He then attended the Sprach Institute in Walchensee, Germany and the University of Innsbruck in Austria majoring in Theology through 1964. He furthered his education as a Pre-Med major at Villa Madonna College from 1964 until 1966 and then finished at Xavier University from 1967 to 1971 with a M.ED. in Secondary School Administration.

Tom began his teaching profession at Bishop Brossart High School in 1966. He was Head of the Science Department in the 1970's before becoming Assistant Principal and eventually Principal of the school in 1978. He remained in that role until 2009. While as principle, he served as a member and chairman on a number of committees for the Diocese of Covington and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He was recognized as the Lay Catechist of the Year in 1993.

His coaching career started at Bishop Brossart as well. He was an assistant coach on both the basketball and baseball teams. Tom coached eleven years in basketball with seven of those as head coach. He guided two teams to the 9<sup>th</sup> Region Tournament and was voted NKIAC Coach of the Year after the 1974-75 season. Tom also coached baseball for a total of twenty three years. His teams won two District Championships and made nine 9<sup>th</sup> Region appearances. Like basketball, he was awarded the 9<sup>th</sup> Region Class "A" Coach of the Year in 1993.

While coaching, Tom also became the Athletic Director at Bishop Brossart. In 2006, he was inducted into Northern KY Athletic Directors Hall of Fame.

Today, Tom is married to his wife, Laura, of forty three years. They have three children named Tom, Shelley, and Craig and nine grandchildren.

## **TEAM OF DISTINCTION**

### **1967 STATE CHAMPION TRACK TEAM**

