

The Leprechaun

A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association

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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

MARCH 2012 EDITION



The Alumni Golf Outing Returns

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Paul Verska '63

Frank Heinrich '97

Ron Wade '87

Bob LaPointe

2012 Alumni Basketball

Upcoming Reunions

Alumni Golf Outing

Upcoming Events

The Leprechaun

MARCH 2012 EDITION

The Leprechaun is a newsletter devoted solely to the alumni and friends of Notre Dame High School of Harper Woods, Michigan. It is produced and distributed free of charge. For more information, please see the Notre Dame Alumni Association's official website: www.friendsofnotredame.com.

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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

Mind Healing Body

Tony DeNardo '90 Journeys Through Stroke Recovery

At the turn of this millennium, **Tony "Muggs" DeNardo '90** was in his late 20's. He was strong as an ox. He worked 60-hour weeks scrapping steal and digging ditches in record-breaking time. He played bass in two bands, one of which - the blues-based rock 'n' roll outfit The Muggs - was about to record its first album. He had recently run a marathon without training.

Tony was at work at Hogg Brother's Recycling, owned by his brother **Frank DeNardo '89**, one day when he found he was suddenly unable to speak. Within a matter of minutes, loss of movement in his right side ensued and he was rushed to the ER.

An immediate cat scan revealed bleeding in the brain and paralysis in the right side of his body. Tony had suffered from a rare hemorrhagic stroke that statistics say is fatal 98 percent of the time. Complications, including blood clots in his lungs, followed. Those, too, are usually fatal.

Throughout the first weeks of what would become two months in the hospital, Tony was fully aware but unable to voice what was happening to him. He was only able to nod his head. "I knew what was going on, but could only give yes and no answers and I was even getting those mixed up," Tony said. "I couldn't speak. I could only nod and shake my head and sometimes I'd answer yes when I really meant no," he added.

His parents were told they would likely lose their son. His dad flew in from California to say good-bye. Yet, somewhere amid the myriad of tests, machines and the solemn faces of everyone around him, Tony decided he would live.

That Tony survived the stroke was something of a miracle. That he is playing music again is even more remarkable.

As he recovered, however, doctors were skeptical that he would ever learn to walk or speak again. A smile creeps across Tony's face as he recalls the seeds of his recovery: He taught himself to walk, albeit slowly and with a cane. He began to work daily with physical therapists at the hospital. Blown away by his progress and determination, they taught him exercises he could do alone at night in bed, long after their shifts ended. He credits his days as an athlete at Notre Dame, in part, for his success in recovery. "I have been in shape my whole life, so the physical part was easy," Tony said. "Working hard and athleticism always came easily to me," he

added. "I have always given 110% to everything I have ever done," he said. "Whether it was a cleaning job or working in the recycling yard or working on my music, my work ethic has always been very good," he said. Tony gradually regained movement and speech after the near-debilitating effects of the stroke.

He learned that hard work wasn't enough, though. A positive mental attitude and vision was equally important. Tony eventually left



Tony "Muggs" DeNardo '90 Playing at the Start and Stripes Festival in Mt. Clemens in July 2011.

the hospital but was slated to return months later for brain surgery. Because his physical movements were understandably slow, Tony remembers that he had plenty of time to think. "I began to visualize my brain healing - literally," he said. As he prepared himself for the procedure, it became Tony's daily ritual for four months to imagine sopping up the blood that had formed around his brain. He then underwent a pre-surgery angiogram that revealed shocking results. To the absolute astonishment of his doctors, Tony's brain was completely healed and required no further surgery.

"I have always believed in the validity and power of thoughts," Tony said. "Visualization is what enabled me to heal," he attests. The power of thought and hard work ultimately allowed him to reclaim his life and his music.

Today, a little more than a decade later, Tony has partial movement in his right side. "It's like a puzzle," he explained of that side of his body. "But some of the pieces are missing," he added. Tony can walk well, and he hopes to run again someday.

Tony's capacity to play music again has been fundamental to his recovery progress. "My main concern was the shows that The Muggs were slated to play that week," he said of that fated ride to the ER during the stroke. "Spoken like a true musician," joked **Danny "Muggs" Methric '90**.

Tony's band mate and best friend since childhood Danny "Muggs" Methric '90, the Muggs' lead guitarist and vocalist, adamantly refused to replace him. "There are no Muggs without Tony," Danny insisted. Thus, the band went

on a several year hiatus during his recovery.

Though Tony may never be able to play bass guitar again, he taught himself to transcribe notes from the bass to the piano, and now he plays his bass equivalent on a Fender Rhodes bass keyboard. It took months of painstaking practice for several hours a day for Tony to control his left hand enough to play well. Two years after the stroke, Tony played his first public show at the Cadieux Café. Since then, the Muggs have seen national and international success. They have toured Spain twice. More recently, he and fellow musician friend Dylan Dunbar started a classic rock/soul/blues band, The Blue Collar Boys featuring Jennifer Westwood. Throughout the months of May and June, the Muggs will be touring Europe. "It's our biggest tour to date," he said. "We hooked up with a new promoter and have dates scheduled in Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands," he added.

In addition, Tony has a solo project he's been working on. "It's called DUDE - all capital letters," he said. His plan is to dovetail with a speaking tour in hopes of sharing his story with a national audience. "I applied for the Kreske Grant. It awards \$25,000 to applicants based on what they say they will do with the money in their application," he said. "In my application, I said I'd like to do a tour of college campuses on a motivational speaking tour in conjunction with my music," he added. "I want to recap my story and share the mental tools I used to get to where I am today in my recovery," he said. "I believe I can help people by telling my story. The world needs a feel good story and I believe mine is just the one it needs," he said.

Eventually, he plans to start a foundation for stroke survivors. He also teaches bass guitar lessons in Grosse Pointe and the surrounding area.

Tony still works on healing himself daily. He attends physical therapy three or four times a week for four hours a day, and works out at a local gym on the odd days. He continues to engage in visualization to dispel the blood clots that frequently form in his legs.

He has also taught those close to him who are suffering from cancer and disease how to use visualization as a means of healing. "I just gave a pep talk to a fellow musician who recently suffered a stroke," Tony said. Tony takes a shot of whiskey with Danny as a wide smile breaks across his face. "If you believe it," he said confidently of the power of self-healing, "then it's true," he concluded.

Tony would be happy to speak with anyone who feels his methods can be of help to them. To reach Tony regarding speaking engagements or for further information please e-mail him at tonymuggs@gmail.com. ■

Verska '63 and Oliver '66 Prep Next Great Michigan QB

Shane Morris is like that brilliant CEO who knows that to succeed, he must surround himself with the best people available. For Morris, that began by enrolling three years ago at Warren DeLaSalle where he would be coached by ND grads **Paul Verska '63** and **Brandon Oliver '66**. Verska is the head football coach at DeLaSalle and Oliver is his offensive coordinator.

One of the top quarterback prospects in the country, Morris now understands that his future role as a Division I quarterback can be helped by taking on another role - as a recruiter.

Morris, 17 and a senior-to-be at DeLaSalle, gave his commitment to Michigan for the 2013 freshman class in May 2010. While the highly rated quarterback continues to improve his on-field skills, he seems to have embraced being the program's unofficial ambassador for the next wave of recruiting classes.

The affable, congenial Morris has taken hold of the social media and works Twitter and Facebook, sending messages to potential future Wolverines. He makes calls, sends texts and e-mails, helping to secure commitments from the best high school players with whom he'll be teammates at Michigan.

"Oh, definitely. Hope so," Morris said enthusiastically when asked if he has impacted the Wolverines' recruiting. "I'm definitely recruiting all the time. We want to win national championships at Michigan and we're going to need the best players in the nation to do that."

Morris is only half-joking when he takes some credit for landing three commitments in the 2012 class and playfully claims he had a significant role in landing Khalid Hill, a tight end from Detroit Crockett, and Dymonte Thomas, a defensive back from Ohio, among others, for the 2013 class.

Michigan had a monumental two days of recruiting the weekend of February 17 - 19, landing eight commitments. Mike Farrell, national recruiting analyst for Rivals.com, said Morris should get a tip of the hat for his efforts.

"He took the leadership role - he's been a huge part of what they did that weekend," Farrell said. "He was arguably their MVP recruiter," he concluded. Quarterback recruits often try to take the lead in helping land recruits, and Morris has taken that very seriously. "I talk to the coaches, and I ask them what receivers they want," Morris said, laughing. "They tell me, and I go on Facebook and Twitter, I find them and start talking to them."

DeLaSalle head coach Paul Verska '64 knew when he first laid eyes on Morris as a seventh-grader that he would be destined for a Division I scholarship. "The skilled left-hander is 6-foot-3, 183 pounds, has a cannon for an arm, a never-quit attitude, and most important to any coach, he has a thick skin, loves practice and wants to learn," Verska said.

The Pilots went 9-3 last season while leaning heavily on a strong run game. Morris, who joined the varsity during the play-

offs his freshman season, had numbers that reflected the run-first approach. He threw for 1,684 yards, 19 touchdowns and had seven interceptions. Verska anticipates big things and even bigger numbers from Morris this fall, as DeLaSalle will be a legitimate state-championship contender. "We haven't gone for stats, we've gone for wins," Verska said. "Shane has done a good job of sacrificing for the team," he added.

Verska treats his standout pro-style quarterback with tough love and with little hesitation rattles off the aspects of his game that need improving - namely footwork. He also gives Morris, the team's (right-footed) punter, a hard time about not spending as much time practicing the kicking game. But he will not scale back his assessment of Morris' ability at quarterback.

"He's the best player in the state of Michigan, bar none, and I think he's the best quarterback in the country," Verska said. "He's got a great heart, he's a competitor. His biggest problem is he has a linebacker mentality. He wants to hit people and I keep telling him to run out of bounds or lay down, but he wants to run you over. We're still working on that," Verska added.

Toughness is part of Morris' nature, who by day is an affable teenager and on the field is a focused, determined competitor. After all, he started his football career as a running back, before developing as a quarterback under the careful tutelage of his father, Bruce Morris. Winning over teammates with his personality and via social media is important, but showing them he has what it takes to lead DeLaSalle - and Michigan if he gets that opportunity - carries more weight.

"You don't want people to think you're soft or you're going to lay down when it comes down to the wire," said Morris, rated five stars by Scout.com and four by Rivals.com, which ranks him as the No. 16 national prospect. "You want people to know you're going to fight for every inch, fight for the win, fight for your team and your brothers."

Undoubtedly, Morris knows his focus must be on his senior year at DeLaSalle, and pursuing a state championship this fall. But there is a steady stream of Michigan fans who seem ready to welcome him into the program and begin preparations to contend for a starting job.

Enrolling early, next January, which would allow Morris to participate in spring practice, is not an option, though. "I haven't told anyone but I'm not going to be able to," Morris said, leaving it at that.

That is not expected to hold him back. Morris will participate in the Elite 11 quarterback regional camp with the hope of making the cut for the prestigious camp in southern California that features the nation's top quarterbacks. He also has accepted an invitation to the Under Armour All-American game next January.

Morris has enjoyed the attention he has drawn since committing to Michigan. He also had offers from Michigan State and Syracuse, and his first came from Cincinnati just before the start of his sophomore season.



Shane Morris is coached by Paul Verska '64 and Brandon Oliver '66



Paul Verska '63

Continued on From Page 3...

He has had to deal with the “overrated” chants, but said his competitive nature thrives on that hostility. He also gets negative response from Ohio State and Michigan State fans, which was expected, he said, after he chose Michigan.

While he’s enjoying a bit of celebrity status these days in Ann Arbor, he shrugs off the unusual side of things, like getting autograph requests from adults, some who go as far as sending requests directly to his home. “You’ve got to take it in and understand you have to grow up faster than a lot of people do,” Morris said. “And you’ve got to realize that’s something you need to deal with in your life. You can’t just understand that and get cocky with it. You always have to stay humble and realize people are going ... to think you’re higher than what you really are, and you can’t let that get to you. You have to realize, ‘I’m equal to everyone else,’” he added.

Verska has helped Morris understand what post-high school reality will be like. “He’s going to have to give up a lot,” Verska said. “To be the quarterback at Michigan, you have to give up a lot. You have to give up a lot of your social life. Shane has to realize to have success at that level you have to give up a lot of the stuff around you,” Verska said.

Morris appreciates the fact Ann Arbor is a 45-minute drive from home. He has spent as much time as possible there getting to know the coaches and players. “Ultimately it was the best fit for me and my family,” he said. “I thought about everything, all the benefits, and everything Michigan has to offer for me feels right. That’s where I need to be, he said. “One of the things I wanted for all my family and friends was to be able to come watch me play every time I’m playing a home game. And playing in front of 115,000 people that are going to be my family, that’s going to be awesome,” said Morris.

Morris believes the Wolverines will be national championship-bound soon. “I definitely feel that,” Morris said. “With the coaches we have now at Michigan and the players we’re getting in, we’re recruiting not just great athletes but quality people. People who want to work hard, people who care about each other and people who will do anything to succeed in life.”

A state championship is first and foremost on his mind, though, and after that, Verska sees nothing standing in the way of his prized quarterback and his college future. “I think it would be a great thing if it works out for Shane and he does compete and ends up someday being a starter at Michigan,” Verska said. “I think it would be a great thing for Michigan and for the whole state to have a local kid and somebody they can cheer for. “Right now, he’s usually hearing the ‘overrated’ chants (from opposing fans), but hopefully they’ll be cheering him for a good job,” Verska concluded. ■



Shane Morris (left) volunteered to keep score for the 2011 ND alumni basketball tournament. When the class of 1977 was short a man, he was thrown into action.

the ‘overrated’ chants (from opposing fans), but hopefully they’ll be cheering him for a good job,” Verska concluded. ■

Source: *The Detroit News*

Fightin’ Irish News

Congratulations to John Yezback ‘98! He and his wife, Alecia, welcomed Jayce John Yezback to the world on October 29, 2011 at 1:04am.



Amber Housey, wife of **Paul Housey ‘88**, has published her first children’s book. The book is titled “Just Because” and is the first in a series of Flip Side Stories™, which were written to teach children and adults about empathy and the importance of seeing another person’s point of view. For more information, visit www.theflipsidestories.com.

Please Pray For...

Marne Housey, wife of **Michael Housey ‘84**. She was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in June of 2011. The tumor was successfully removed and Marne is currently undergoing chemotherapy to ensure that the tumor does not return.

Joey Caretti, the eleven year old son of **Joe Caretti ‘84** and Lisa (Verkest) Caretti (Regina ‘84). Joey has been diagnosed with Leukemia and will be undergoing chemotherapy treatments and a bone marrow transplant in the coming months.

Addison Puma, the young daughter of **Vince Puma ‘92**. She is undergoing radiation treatments at St. Jude Children’s Research Center in Memphis, TN for an inoperable brain stem tumor. Since her diagnosis in September, 2011, Addison’s parents say, “Addison has endured various treatments, an MRI, radiation simulation and a surgery to implant a port to receive sedation, not to mention numerous meetings and consultations. Through all of this she has been extremely brave, tough, feisty, patient and amazingly happy. She is so strong and kind and fun to be around even though she is facing more than any child should ever have to endure. We know her tough attitude and fighting spirit will make her one of the 1 percent to survive this terrible disease.”

Mr. Norman Kotarski, a long-time teacher at Notre Dame. Norm is undergoing chemotherapy as treatment for cancer.

Tigers' Ron Wade '87 Participates in MLB Network Quiz Show "Baseball IQ"

When you're covered in makeup, standing under the hot, unforgiving lights, dueling with an opponent in front of television cameras, seven seconds aren't counted off with Mississippi in the middle. "Viewers at home might be shouting out answers," said Detroit Tigers director of marketing, **Ron Wade '87**, of the trivia questions asked on MLB Network's upcoming quiz show, *Baseball IQ*. "But it's a lot harder when you're the one on the show," he added.

Wade is representing the Detroit Tigers -- and their charity, the Detroit Tigers Foundation -- on the 30-minute show which made its debut at 9 p.m. eastern on Tuesday, February 7. Two episodes will air every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, leading up to the opening of spring training camps in late February. Wade did not know when his episode would run, specifically. "You have to come up with an answer quick," Wade said. "It's a lot of fun. I highly recommend people tune in to it," he added.

Hosted by Matt Vasgersian, *Baseball IQ* features 32 contestants - one from each MLB team plus representatives of MLB.com and the Baseball Hall of Fame - meeting head-to-head in bracket-style format with a chance to win up to \$45,000 for their charity. In the opening round, Wade opposed White Sox director of baseball operations Dan Fabian. "We joked about (the rivalry between the teams)," Wade said. "We were talking about disco demolition night, Tigers-White Sox clashes in the past. One of those things we were saying is if somebody is going to win it, we want it to be the A.L. Central. But it wasn't a huge rivalry. No fisticuffs," Wade added.

The Detroit Tigers Foundation focuses on youth, education and recreation programs, and helps to renovate baseball fields, as well, so Wade hoped to bring back some money to help the cause. "It's near and dear to the organization's heart," he said. "It's been doing great works, and will continue to do great works. I was very honored to be representing it," he said.

Just making it to the MLB Network studios in New York was an accomplishment. The first step of the process was a written test given to anyone interested in competing. The

questions were a lot harder than how many home runs Hank Aaron hit or who won the World Series in 1968.

"I think everybody looked at these questions like, this is a lot harder than sitting at a bar doing bar trivia," Wade said.

He expected someone from the media relations department would end up representing the Tigers. After all, a key part of their job is putting together statistical notes that focus on the trivial. However, those who made it to the show actually ranged from museum curators to front-office members to video coordinators and equipment managers. "I don't really have a trivia background,"



Ron Wade '87 on Baseball I.Q.

Wade said. "I was a Tigers season-ticket holder at Tiger Stadium. I had season tickets at Comerica Park - section 103, Row D - in the bleachers.

"I knew Tigers trivia was going to come to mind. I've been a baseball fan all my life, what are the odds of them asking me a Tigers question? I didn't know if that was going to be the case. My nightmare scenario was going to be getting asked a Tigers question and not knowing the answer and being forced to come back and face my coworkers."

Wade, 41, is a near lifelong resident of Detroit, who graduated from *Harper Woods Notre Dame High School* in 1987 and Wayne State University with a M.A. in Sports Administration. He's not a baseball lifer, either. Wade's first college degree came in biology, after which he took a job working in cytogenetics, the analysis of human chromosomes.

A baseball fan who was interested in what was going on behind the scenes, Wade went back to Wayne State to study sports administration. "I joked I had my first mid-life crisis," he said. He served as an intern with the Tigers in the infamous 2003 season.

Just a little bonus Ron Wade trivia for you: He was in attendance for Game 6 of the 2003 NLCS between the Cubs and Marlins. You might better remember that as being the Bartman game.

After his internship, Wade worked in group sales for the St. Paul Saints before being hired by the Tigers in 2005 - just in time for a fun ride. "2006 was a magical season," he said. "Last year was just as rewarding, if not more so. The team was great. We really battled. We're all wrapped up in it. It was just a magical season, on par with 2006. We've just got to get those last six wins," he added.

As the marketing director, Wade's duties include not just advertising the team in a traditional sense through newspapers, radio or television, but also through social media. He is involved in the team's website and Twitter accounts, and there's a good chance he's the person who responded to you from the @Tigers account.

A self-described geek, two of Wade's offseason projects are putting together the team's pocket schedule and helping design the tickets received by season-ticket holders. That part of the job is especially near and dear to his heart. "You know that having season tickets come in the mail is like Christmas," he said. "It lets you know winter is almost over - baseball is coming. I used to love running to the mailbox and getting that big package. You think of all the potential games and opponents you want to see. You think, this could be the year. It's a little geeky thing for me to do. It's a labor of love. I think this year's design is going to be really great. But I like to keep it under wraps. We get questioning: Can you show us the design? Can we put this on the web site? I don't like releasing it until season ticket holders see it first," he added.

Ron can tell you he had a lot of fun while taping for the program, and he thinks that it made for some pretty good television for baseball fans. Unfortunately, he was defeated in the first round of the *Baseball I.Q.* tournament by White Sox director of baseball operations, Dan Fabian. "At least if you tuned in, I hope I didn't break your TV," Wade joked. ■

Source: www.blessyouboy.com

Notre Dame Alumni Association On-Line Store

www.friendsofnotredame.flyingcart.com



ND Varsity Letters are now available in the NDAA store!

Coming Soon: NDHS Bricks!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Frank Heirich '97! On February 27, 2012, Frank received an award from the Roseville Parks and Recreation Board. His quick action in calling 911 and following the instructions given during a life threatening situation, helped save the life of a Youth Basketball Coach on February 12th.

The EMT's arrived and rushed the coach to the hospital. The coach was in the middle of having a heart attack. Because of Frank's quick action and calm under pressure, the coach survived the heart attack and is now recovering. Without Frank's quick actions the coach would have lost his life on the Roseville Rec. Center floor.



Coach Bob LaPointe Was Highly Respected

When former Notre Dame High School and Belleville High School football coach **Bob LaPointe** got loud, players knew he cared. "If he yelled at you, he saw potential," his wife, Carol LaPointe, said. It's a trait he fell back on often in his 42-year career as a teacher and football coach. LaPointe, of Canton Township, died Jan. 31, 2012, of heart failure. He was 66.

Born Nov. 11, 1945, in Hancock, Mr. LaPointe graduated from Edsel Ford High School in January 1964 and studied education at Eastern Michigan University, where he joined the Arm of Honor fraternity.

He began coaching in 1968 as an assistant coach at Wayne Memorial under head coach Vaskin Badlow, who was

one of his assistant coaches when LaPointe played for Edsel Ford in high school. As a Thunderbird, he played center and tackle on the offensive line and also played defensive end. When Badlow left

to coach at Eastern Michigan University, LaPointe moved on to Southgate Aquinas. LaPointe was the head coach at Aquinas for one season - its first year with seniors - while he was teaching at Davidson Middle School in Southgate.

An opportunity arose for him to coach under Bill McCartney at Divine Child and he jumped at it. He was an assistant for the Falcons until 1974 when McCartney joined Bo Schembechler's staff at the University of Michigan. McCartney recommended LaPointe for the head coaching position and he was hired. This was his first job as teacher and head coach. He led the Falcons to the Class B high school state championship in 1975 with an undefeated record. At Divine Child, LaPointe coached several players who went on to play college football including Gary Forystek, who was an All-America quarterback in high school and went on to play at the University of Notre Dame. Forystek is most often remembered for getting injured and being replaced at quarterback at ND by Joe Montana.

LaPointe then spent five years at Eastern Michigan University, a job he said he dearly loved. He was an assistant for the first four and then interim coach for the last year. One of his favorite aspects of the job was recruiting prospective players. In 1982, he broke the football team's now infamous 27 game losing streak.

Upon leaving EMU, he went on to coach **Harper Woods Notre Dame**. His best record was 5-4 while at Notre Dame. The school, however, lost most of its feeder programs in the area. "He was a great teacher and coach," said **Chris Gajewski '90**, a former player under LaPointe at Notre Dame.

A nearly 20-year stay at Belleville High School capped his career. LaPointe came to Belleville in 1991 as the freshman football coach and was given the head coaching duties one year later. Some of the teams he coached in the '90s were among the

best in the area. The Belleville football program had the most wins of any Washtenaw County school for that time period.

Three of his players - Ian Gold and Kris and Cullen Jenkins - have played in the National Football League. Gold was a member of the University of Michigan's 1997 national championship team and went on to a long career with the Denver Broncos.

Kris Jenkins, who went on to play at Maryland and for the Carolina Panthers and New York Jets in the NFL, said on Twitter that he was sad he couldn't be back home for the funeral and expressed how sad he was for the loss of his high school coach.

Another former player, Jason Gold, who went on to play football at Central Michigan, shared a story indicative of LaPointe's tough, fair and team-oriented approach. "I remember when I scored a touchdown against Romulus my senior year," Gold recalled. "The ball carrier fumbled at the 50yd line. I scooped it up and raced to the end-zone. I decided to fly like superman into the end-zone. I was feeling very good and my teammates and coaches were elated! Coach LaPointe wasn't. In fact, he was furious. It was during the second quarter and he told me in his way, 'You're done!' I didn't see the field again the rest of the game. The next morning in our film session he replayed my flying clip over and over again critiquing the entire flight to the landing and drawing uncontrollable laughter from coaches and teammates.

I never did that again and I learned to respect my opponents. This is very different from the majority of today's athletes. Thank you Coach Lapointe," Gold concluded.

"He made some major changes at Belleville," said his wife. A Belleville co-worker introduced the couple in 1997. "He called and left a message on my phone," said Carol LaPointe, with a laugh. "He said, 'Sylvia told me to call you.'" They married April 7, 2001. "He was just a really great person," she said. "You know, he was the love of my life," she added.

LaPointe was a family man with a penchant for teasing, according to his wife. "He had a great sense of humor, loved music - and sports, of course," she said.

Bob LaPointe earned the love and respect of those around him. "Everywhere we'd go, he'd run into someone he knew," said Carol LaPointe. "He was highly respected by everybody who knew him," she concluded.

Death Notice:

LaPointe Robert J. January 31, 2012 age 66 of Canton. Loving husband of Carol. Beloved father of Renee (Doug) Babcock, Bo, Daniel, and Karen (Jeffrey) Reich. Dear brother of Bonnie (Tim) Wyman. Proud Papa of Brooke and Daniel Babcock, Andrew, Marynn, and Cameron LaPointe, and Sydney, Liam, and Genevieve Reich. Bob had a 42 year career as a football coach and teacher. He coached and taught at Dearborn Divine Child, Harper Woods Notre Dame, and Belleville High Schools, as well as Eastern Michigan University. His coaching highlights include winning the Class B High School State Championship with Dearborn Divine Child in 1975, and breaking the EMU losing streak in 1982. Interment Glen Eden Memorial Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Belleville High School Football Program, 501 W. Columbia, Belleville MI 48111. To share memories please visit vermeulenfuneralhome.com. ■



Bob LaPointe coaching his Belleville Tigers.

In Memoriam

Ronald Joseph Chorzempa - Class of 1960

Age 69, of Stafford, Virginia passed away Thursday, January 12, 2012 at Woodmont Nursing Center.

Mr. Chorzempa was born in Toledo, Ohio on July 24, 1942 to William and Helen Chorzempa. He was employed as a Communications Engineer for Lockheed Martin. Survivors include his wife, Kathleen Chorzempa; two daughters, Kerrie Mazzocco and her husband Matthew and Mary Chorzempa; son, Michael Chorzempa and his wife Katherine; one sister, Maryann Foxlee and her husband



Thomas; brother, **Larry Chorzempa '63** and his wife Rosemary; two grandchildren, Jordon and Cecilia Mazzocco. Interment at Quantico National Cemetery.

William "Bill" Elsey - Class of 1966

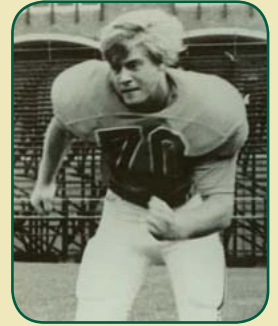
Age 63, died February 22, 2012. Beloved husband of Linda. Loving father of Terry (Angela) and Jeff (Monique). Proud grandfather of Cameron and Connor. Dear brother of Daniel (Diane), LouAnn (Arthur) Reaume and Douglas (Janice). Also several



nieces and nephews. Memories shared at www.bcfh.com.

Gary Allen Radzik - Class of 1969

Age 60, of Harrison Township, passed away Saturday, February 18 at McLaren, Mount Clemens. He was born April 2, 1951 to Alfred and Helen (Goleblewski) Radzik in Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Radzik graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1969 and earned a B.A. in Mathematics from Dayton University in 1973, which he attended on a full football scholarship. Gary was employed by the Ford Motor Company, and was an avid fisherman. Surviving is his wife, Bridget; son, Brandon (Lindsay) Radzik; daughter, Elizabeth (Mark) Swift; grandchildren, Nathan, Christian, Samantha, Benjamin and Maxwell; his twin brother, **Glenn '69** (Deadra) Radzik and nieces, Megan (Andrew) King and Mallory Radzik. Gary was predeceased by his parents, Alfred and Helen. Burial at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township. Share memories at www.willandschwarzkooff.com.



John P. Dugas - Class of 1985

Age 44, suddenly passed February 19, 2012. Beloved partner of Edward Pick; loving parents, Geraldine and John P. Dugas; sister, Elizabeth Dziedzic; brothers, Christopher (Lorraine), Gregory (Lisa); five nieces and nephews; beloved aunt and uncle Sandra and Ronald Urbanczyk. Share memories with the family at www.baldwinfairchild.com.



Extended Family

Helen Kozara, who worked at Notre Dame High School in the business office from 1964 to 1977, passed away at the age of 96 on January 11, 2012.

Dennis Puchalski, father of **Randy Tumidajewicz '87**, passed away on January 21, 2012.

Iola Platz, mother of **Rusty "Henry" Platz '60** and **Thomas Platz '63** passed away on January 24, 2012.

Jane Kale, wife of **Stephen Kale '70** for 27 years, passed away January 29, 2012.

William "Bill" Loose, father of **Chuck Loose '87**, passed away on February 2, 2012.

Joanne Erb, mother of **Michael Erb '91**, passed away on February 7, 2012.

Edward Eggly, father of **Edward Eggly '63** the late **Alan Eggly '59** passed away on February 10, 2012.

Eileen Ryan, wife of **Kevin Hennessey '75**, passed away on February 17, 2012.

2012 Alumni Basketball Tournament

The annual alumni basketball tournament took place the weekend of March 2, 3, & 4 at the DeLaSalle BRAC in Warren. This is the 7th year the Friends of Notre Dame, Inc. has hosted the tournament. This year, 97 guys participated in the tournament. The tournament was won by the class of 2001. The performance of the tournament was turned in by Chris Housey '99. He scored 48 points with fourteen 3-point shots against the team from the 1980's. A special thank you to those who donated time to help us run the tournament including Brian Kelly '77, Joe Novak (DLS), Brannon Eatmon and Jackson Solomon (Students at Warren CPC), Frank Heinrich '97, Tom Jenkins '97, Brett Ceriotti '99, Rob DeBruyn '89, Jim Mandl '66, and Jim Mandl '90. Thank you to everyone who participated! We will see you again in 2013!



The Class of 2001 - Champions of the 2012 Alumni Basketball Tournament!



The Class of 2003: Runner-up in the 2012 Alumni Basketball Tournament.



The Class of 1997-1998: Third place in the 2012 Alumni Basketball Tournament.



The Class of 2002: Fourth place in the 2012 Alumni Basketball Tournament.



The Class of 2005 defeated the class of 1992-1994 in early tournament action.

2012 Alumni Basketball Tournament



Sean Patterson '83 back-pedals after hitting a 3-point shot for the 1980's team.



Marvin Listenbee '03 (WOF) goes up for a dunk - one of the many he had in the tournament.



Whitney Robinson '98 (WOF) shoots a free-throw for the 1997-1998 team.



Matt Bultinck '01 (left) struts his stuff after scoring another 3-pointer for the champs.



Chris Housey '99 back-pedals after scoring 3 of his 48 points against the class of 1993.



Brian Kelly '77 (WOF) says 'get this ball away from me' for the class of 1977 team.



Ron Stempin '91 looks to the class of 1991's bench for some relief.



Bernard Richmond '89 shoots a free-throw as Sean Moran '89 awaits a possible rebound.

Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1962

50-year reunion

Thursday, August 16, 2012
At Notre Dame Preparatory School
1300 Giddings Road
Pontiac, Mich.

Reunion Committee:

Jerry Lesperance:
jerrylesperance@yahoo.com

Jerry Alderman:
trottinhorse@myway.com

Tom Lueck
TJLUECK@aol.com

Class of 1963

50-year reunion weekend is being
planned for September 2013

Tentative plans:
Saturday dinner at Greektown Casino
Sunday morning mass
Detroit Tigers game

Reunion Committee:

John McCabe (586) 822-5153
Don Herman (586) 781-0220

Class of 1965

50-year reunion in 2015

TBD

The committee is looking for up-to-date
e-mail addresses and contact information.

Reunion Committee:

Dennis Berger
dennisaberger@aol.com
(909) 223-4483

Class of 1972

40-Year Reunion

Planning is in the early stages. Contact
John Berra at (949) 357-3926 if you are
interested in helping organize the reunion.

Reunion Committee:

John Berra
949-357-3926
jmberra2003@yahoo.com

Terry Cirocco
(313) 884-7748

tjcirocco@mckeenassociates.com

Michael Montpetit
(734) 433-2399
mcmont1954365@aol.com

Class of 1986

25-Year Reunion

CANCELLED

Will be planning a 30-year reunion.

Class of 1987

25-Year Reunion

In early planning stages

Reunion Contacts:

C. John Childs
john.childs@delphi.com
swarthydog@yahoo.com
248-787-0616

John Vermiglio
jvermig1@comcast.net
586-212-4763

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*E-mail Jim Mandl '90
at
jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com*

Wall of Fame

If you see your name listed below, we have your Wall of Fame plaque that hung on the wall behind the gym.
We would like for you to have your plaque if you want it.

Please email us at jmandl@friendsofnotredame.com, and we will make arrangements to get it to you!

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Dave Debol '74*
John Giordano '61*
John Blum '77*
David Bonior '63
Joe Przybycki '64
Mike Boccia '65
Chris Hacias '65
John Kraft '65
Rick Wenner '67
Dan Richards '67
Glenn Radzik '69
Gary Radzik '69
Jerry Guinane '71
Tim Flannery '73
Jim Romeo '75
Kevin Flannery '75

Tom Bentley '75
Brian Monfils '75
Tom Gadawski '76
Marco Caporuscio '78
Dave Wolfbauer '79
Gary Bass '80
Kevin Paterson '80
Jim Forsgren '81
Craig Mitchell '81
Walt Dixon '81
Brett Nowak '82
Chris Gust '82
Paul Tripp '82
Brian Barney '83
Andy Nanasi '83
Greg Placidi '83
Ken Zazula '84

Paul Seibert '86
Paul Amodei '86
Joe Trombley '87
Jim Maher '88
Eric Taylor '89
Eric Stanczak '89
DezJuan Reynolds '90
Matt Ziolkowski '90

Please Note:

In order to ship the WOF plaque, we need you to cover the cost. Shipping within the state of Michigan is \$9.00 per plaque. Shipping outside of Michigan is \$12.00 per plaque.

The Alumni Golf Outing Returns

All Alumni and Friends of Notre Dame High School are invited to Join us
Friday, June 22, 2012 for a shotgun start at 8am.

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Submit Your Foursome No Later Than May 22, 2012
(Don't have a foursome? Individual Golfers, Duos and Trios Welcome!)

Name: _____ Class: _____ Email: _____

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For More Info Please
Contact Alumni Golf
Outing Chair Person,
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sportplaxllc@yahoo.com



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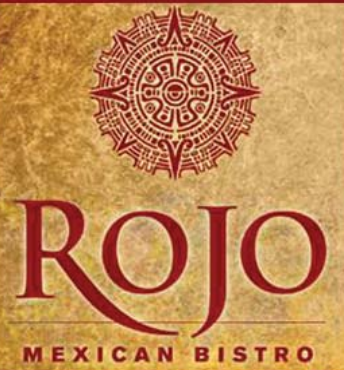
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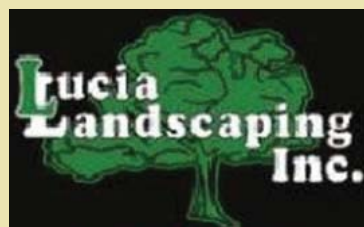
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