

**MENOMINEE HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

3RD ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY



**Saturday, October 23, 2021
Embers 1871
Peshtigo, Wisconsin**

**Menominee High School
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY**

INVOCATIONJohn Wills
OPENING REMARKSRandy Demeuse
MASTER OF CEREMONIESJohn Wills
KEYNOTE SPEAKERBill Schwanz

Walter Niemann

Accepting on Mr. Niemann's behalf: Amanda Lingis Nelson
Plaque Presenter: Robert Krysiak

Joseph Oreshoski

Accepting on Mr. Oreshoski's behalf: Toby Oreshoski
Plaque Presenter: Randy Demeuse

Dan Wesoloski

Plaque Presenter: William Jones III

Michelle Perket Harlow

Plaque Presenter: Michele Lemire

Bret Pearson

Plaque Presenter: Tracy Dougherty

Al Ruleau

Plaque Presenter: Owen Peterson

Peter Mayhew

Plaque Presenter: Randy Verkerke

1998 State Championship Football Team

Plaque Presenter: Joshe Kellner

Menominee High School ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

OFFICERS OF THE HALL OF FAME

Mr. Randy Demeuse	President
Mr. John Mans	1st Vice-President
Mr. Owen Peterson	2nd Vice President
Mr. John Wills	Executive Secretary
Mr. Jamie Schomer	Treasurer

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Mr. Tony Hofer	Ms Heather Nelson
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Mr. William Kelley	Mr. William Schwanz
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Menominee High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Welcome to the 3rd annual ceremony of the Menominee High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Conceived in late 2016, the idea of a hall of fame at our high school has been tossed around for many years, but in February of 2017, the MHS Hall of Fame was launched and before the year was out, the class of 2018 had been selected.

The categories for nomination as established by the Board of Directors include athletes, coaches, teams, and individuals providing meritorious service in the area of athletics. The criteria are as follows:

ATHLETE:

A person may be nominated for induction in the category of athlete after a minimum of twenty (20) years have passed after graduation.

COACH:

A person may be nominated for induction in the category of coach after a minimum of five (5) years have passed since last coaching.

TEAM:

A team may be nominated for induction in the category of team after a minimum of twenty (20) years have passed after graduation.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE:

A person may be nominated for induction into the category of meritorious service at any time at the discretion of the Board of Directors and the Nomination/Selection Committee.

The formation of the Menominee High School Athletic Hall of Fame began in the fall of 2016 as an idea in the minds of Randy Demeuse and John Wills. Past attempts at creating a hall of fame were unsuccessful in part due to timing and circumstances, but this time everything came together as if it was meant to be.

In the early winter of 2017, the two met with high school officials and then the board of education to get their approval, which came swiftly and smoothly. A Board of Directors was formed which included Demeuse, Wills, Owen Peterson, Superintendent and High School Principal John Mans, and Athletic Director Jamie Schomer.

In the ensuing months, a Nomination/Selection Committee was formed with ready volunteers seeking to make the hall a reality. Nominations to the inaugural class of inductees were sought from both the committee and the public and by August a list was compiled. The committee voted in September, and by November 1 the first class had been selected.

We have to acknowledge the fine writing of Maroon grad and EagleHerald sports writer Brian Bell for his outstanding articles and promotion of the Hall of Fame through his writings. Also, we wouldn't be where we are in terms of our development and growth without the contributions of former Newsman and historian Larry Ebsch for his contributions to us and to the community in general.

Tonight, we honor eight more inductees into our hall. From the man who played for and against the fledgling Green Bay Packers, a Marquette University standout and local coaching legend, a member of a little league baseball team which narrowly missed qualifying for the Little League World Series who was also a stellar all conference lineman for the Maroons, a champion gymnast, swimmer, and tennis player who later excelled at the college level, a four-sport athlete who played football at the University of Wisconsin and later the NFL, the only all-state basketball player to average over 20 points per game, leading his team to a 24-1 record, the best in school history, a coach who was honored as Michigan Basketball Coach of the Year three times, to the first Menominee football team to win a state championship, this year's inductees have brought honor and distinction to the Menominee community.

Thank you for being a part of tonight's ceremony. We welcome you all in joining us as we celebrate and show our appreciation to the inductees and their accomplishments at Menominee High School.

Walter Niemann

Walter Niemann graduated from Menominee High School in 1913 and was an outstanding lineman for the Crimson (now Maroons) and at the University of Michigan where he was a two-way performer for Coach Feilding H. Yost's Wolverines. Coming in below average in weight at 153 pounds, he had the ability to outperform any defender he was matched up against. He never missed a game in the 1915-16 seasons. In 1920, Niemann, a center, suited up for the Menominee North End Athletic Club, a team that just two years prior became the first ever team to play the fledgling Green Bay Packers. Niemann played for the Packers in 22 games from 1922-1924. Born in Hermansville, he received a degree in engineering at the University of Michigan and was widely recognized for his invention of an orbital type engine he patented and developed at the U.P. Machine and Engineering Company in Powers. He was inducted into the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame in 1974.



Joseph Oreshoski

Joseph Oreshoski starred on some of the Maroons' best teams of the 1940's and served as captain in the trenches in 1947 winning All-U.P. honors at end. He played college ball for coach Lisle Blackburn's Marquette University Hilltoppers (now the Golden Eagles) and played a rugged schedule that included Michigan State during its heyday of the early 1950's. He was a standout end for the old M&M Hornets of the Wisconsin State League and later served as line coach before becoming head coach. Later, he served as coach at Our Lady of Lourdes (now St. Thomas Aquinas Academy) and was assistant basketball coach at St Ann's under legendary coach Red LaCousiere. In the 1960's, he resurrected Pop Warner grade school football, which continues to a big part of community life 58 years later. He won the National Pop Warner Conference Service-to-Youth Award for outstanding contributions to Menominee youth.



Dan Wesoloski

While starring in baseball and football in the late 1960's, Dan Wesoloski's first claim to fame came on the Little League diamond at the age of 10 where he was a highly effective pitcher. In 37 innings he struck out 91 batters and hit .580 at the plate. In 1961, his team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the Little League World Series. He continued his baseball career as an infielder and starting pitcher in Babe Ruth League and was named to the 1964 All-Star team that advanced to the Michigan State Championship Series. He also played several years of Wishigan League baseball. As a high schooler playing football, he was an offensive and defensive starter each of his three years on varsity, earning all-conference honors in his junior and senior years. Instead of playing college sports, Wesoloski chose to enlist in the Army.



Michele Perket Harlow

Micki Perket Harlow was a three year sports standout during her years at Menominee High School where she earned U.P. State honors in gymnastics on the trampoline and tennis at number one singles in addition to being a competitive swimmer at the YMCA level and the captain of the cheerleading squad. In swimming, Micki was the Wisconsin State Champion in the 50 yard freestyle, the 200 yard Individual Medley, and the 100 yard butterfly in 1973. She was U.P. Champion in gymnastics in 1974 and 1975, as well as in tennis, runner up in 1974 and champion in 1975 and 1976 at number 1 singles. In 1975, she was the Maroon News Athlete of the Year. As a student at Northwestern University, she competed in varsity tennis and won the consolation Big ten #4 singles in 1977. While in college, she headed the area track and field meet for the Cook County Special Olympics and also gave racquetball, tennis, and swimming lessons.



Bret Pearson

Bret Pearson was a four sport athlete at Menominee and could fill an entire room with all the accolades he garnered as a Maroon. In football he was team MVP in 1978 and 1980 and all -conference and all-U.P. in 1979. In basketball he was all -region and all-state in 1980 as well as earning all-state in track and field; and he also lettered in tennis as well. In Legion baseball he was an all-star selection in 1980. Following graduation, Pearson went on to the University of Wisconsin where he was a four year letter winner in football. He was Big 10 Player of the Week after catching eight passes for 91 yards and a touchdown against Ohio State in 1983 and was Big 10 Honorable Mention in 1984. In 1985 he was drafted by the NFL's San Diego Chargers. From 1986-91 he coached jayvee girls basketball at Waunakee, Wisconsin and varsity volleyball, girls' jayvee basketball and varsity football assistant at Baraga, Michigan. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1991 to 1997. In 2010, Pearson was inducted into the Upper Peninsula Sports Hall of Fame.



Al Ruleau

Al Ruleau was a three-sport standout at Menominee High School, where he eclipsed 1,153 points in basketball, was a two-way starter as a junior on the football team, and finished in 8th place at U.P. Finals in cross country. He was moved to the varsity during his sophomore season before the advent of the 3-point line. During his senior year of basketball, Ruleau was the only all-state player to average over 20 points per game and lead his team in assists as he led the Maroons to a 24-1 record, which was best in school history. As a junior and senior, Ruleau was named 1st team all-conference, the conference MVP, 1st team all-U.P. and U.P. player of the year, and as a senior was named 1st team all-state. He went on to star at Northern Michigan University and was captain of the team along with Bill Hanis for the 1986-87 season. He coached Boys' and Girls' varsity and jayvee basketball for 12 years in Peshtigo, Wisconsin.



Pete Mayhew

Pete Mayhew's girls' basketball teams won six conference championships, 13 district titles, four regional titles, and had three teams named U.P. Team of the year. He started the jayvee girls' program as its first coach in 1976 and also started the junior high program in 1977, coaching a combined 7-8 grade team. He initiated summer league, weight training and conditioning. The Michigan Basketball Coaches' Association honored him three times as coach of the year. Mayhew's teams went 377-256 from 1980-2010 and in 2000 his boys' golf squad won the U.P. Finals. Over 100 of his players were recognized for post-season awards, either all-conference or all-state.



1998 Varsity Football Team

The 1998 Maroons football team set the standard for championship play that year, losing only two of their regular season games. In the playoffs, they outscored their opponents 141-25. In the state championship game at the Pontiac Silverdome, Menominee put the game away early, leaving nothing to chance in a 42-6 rout of Lansing Haslett. Some of the season's highlights included playing two eventual Wisconsin state champs, Defeating rival Kingsford at Flivver Field, snapping a 45 game nine-year home-win streak, averaged 39.5 points per game, featured two running backs who each rushed for over 1,000 yards for the season, defeating defending champion West Branch Ogemaw Heights 47-6, had a state record for most kickoff returns for touchdowns in a season, (Josh Tarbox), and featured 10 all-GNC players including the player of the year (Drew Buyarski).



2018 Inaugural Induction Ceremony Photos



Bill Jones for Fred Norcross



Frances Tallent Family



Dick Deschaine Family



Ronda Hanson for Red LaCousiere



Harry Belongy for Billy Wells



Larry Ebsch

2018 Inaugural Induction Ceremony Photos



Ken Hofer



Tom Bengston for Bill Rademacher



Pat Miller



Syd Wells

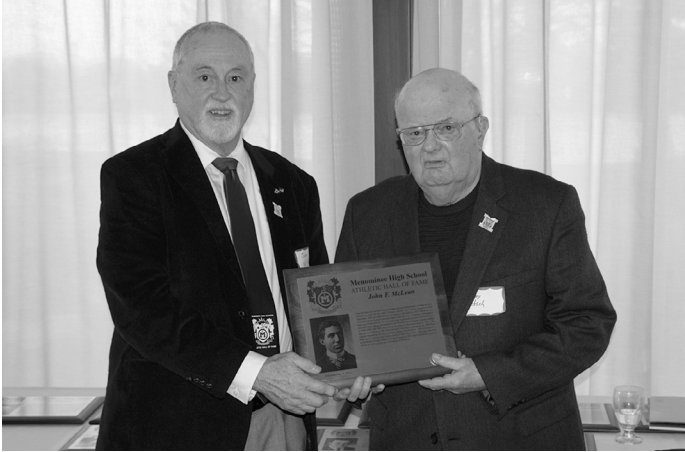


Tiffany Hodge Gilbert



1967 Basketball Team

2019 Inaugural Induction Ceremony Photos



John Wills for John F. McLean



Cameron Streidl for Jack Streidl



Tony Hofer for Mary Agnes Wall



Ann Shatusky Piler for
Mike Shatusky



Mike Englund for Ron "Satch" Englund

2019 Inaugural Induction Ceremony Photos



Pat Mellinger, LuAnn Green, & Jenny Smith for Fran Mellinger



Jim Payne



Bob Krysiak



Joe Johnson



Heather Nelson

Recognition & Accolades

The Menominee High School Athletic Hall of Fame would like to thank the following for their efforts and support. To them and to all of you for being here tonight, you have our undying gratitude for what you have given in our joint efforts.

Schoobie's Trophies & Apparel

EagleHerald

Stephenson National Bank & Trust

Brian Bell

Bay Cities Radio

Larry Ebsch

Chuck Patrick

Allison Stewart

Jim Callow

Sherry Veriha – Embers 1871

Josh Kellner

“Maroon Fans” Decorating Committee



*Thank you for attending!
We hope to see you next year!*