

**MENOMINEE HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

**4TH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY**



**Saturday, May 14, 2022  
Embers 1871  
Peshtigo, Wisconsin**

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

INVOCATION .....John Wills  
OPENING REMARKS .....Randy Demeuse  
MASTER OF CEREMONIES .....John Wills  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER.....Bob Krysiak

**Dewey Bellisle**

Plaque Presenter: William Jones III

**Fred Matz**

Plaque Presenter: William Jones III

**Chuck Patrick**

Plaque Presenter: Jim Callow

**Denise Gentile James**

Plaque Presenter: Debbie Hofer

**Janet Hallfrisch Sbar**

Plaque Presenter: Syd Wells

**Brent Nerat**

Plaque Presenter: Scott Harpt

**Tyler Tafelski**

Plaque Presenter: Bill Kelley

**Drew Buyarski**

Plaque Presenter: Ken Hofer

# Menominee High School ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

## OFFICERS OF THE HALL OF FAME

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

## NOMINATIONS & SELECTION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Sara Betzinger	Ms. Sue Erdman
Mr. Ken Hofer	Mr. Peter Mayhew
Mr. Tony Hofer	Ms Heather Nelson
Mr. William Jones III	Mr. Brent Nerat
Mr. William Kelley	Mr. William Schwanz
Mr. Josh Kellner	Ms Jean Stegeman
Ms Michele Lemire	Ms Allison Stewart
Mr. Dale Van Duinen	

## ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Pete Mayhew.....	Interim Superintendent, Menominee Public Schools
Mr. Drew Buyarski.....	High School Principal
Mr. Sam Larson.....	Athletic Director, Menominee High School

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Derek Butler .....	President
Ms. Dawn Wesoloski.....	Vice President
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Ms. Cindy Woods.....	Trustee

## **Menominee High School Athletic Hall of Fame**

Welcome to the 4th 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 EagleHerald sports writer Matt Lehman 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.

Covid put the brakes on a 2021 induction class, but 2022 will certainly add more luster to the Hall. This year, we celebrate the induction of two basketball players from the 1967 championship basketball team, the radio and PA voice of the Maroons for many years, two women who were at the forefront of women's athletics, blazing trails for many who followed their footsteps, an all around athlete who played basketball for the Maroons, scoring over 1,000 points and also starred at the collegiate level in Wisconsin, a championship All-American wrestler who has since distinguished himself as an officer in the United States Army, and one of the most outstanding and prolific members of the 1998 Championship football team. This year's class is recognizable as one of the Menominee High School Athletic Hall of Fame's finest. We can all be proud of their accomplishments.

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.

# Dewey Bellisle

Dewey Bellisle was a versatile athlete who played and excelled at four sports during his remarkable career. He played baseball as a Little Leaguer, Babe Ruth, and two years of Legion Baseball. He ran track for three years and his 1966 team won the U.P. Championship. He played football for Coach Ken Hofer helping produce two GNC titles, a Barber trophy for the best team in the U.P. and was named to the All—GNC team and All-U.P. Team following the 1968 season. He started on the basketball varsity team as a freshman, being a featured player on the 1967 State Championship team. He is also a member of the 1,000 point Club at MHS. He and his teammates were inducted into the Menominee High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018.



# Fred Matz

Fred Matz lettered in four sports at MHS. His career began as a 10 year old boy playing center field in Little League Baseball, and as a 12 year old, was part of the team that came within one game of representing the North in the Little League World Series. He was also the starting 1st baseman as a freshman on the Menominee High team, earning his first varsity letter. Menominee discontinued baseball after Fred's freshman season. He played #1 doubles on the tennis team in his junior and senior years. Fred played four years of football, one for Coach Fran Mellinger's JV team as a freshman and three years of varsity football, earning All-GNC honors his junior and senior years. During his junior and senior years he was a starting forward on Bob Krysiak's varsity teams where, in 1967, Fred was part of the State Championship experience.



# Chuck Patrick (Mikolasek)

Chuck Patrick (Mikolasek) graduated from Menominee High School in 1958, joining WAGN Radio in 1957 where he is still employed today and on the air daily Monday through Friday. Chuck first did Maroons football and basketball play-by-play broadcasts starting in 1961. After five years at WMAM in Marinette, he returned to WAGN in 1970. During the time when he was not doing the radio broadcasts, Chuck handled the PA announcer duties at Menominee football and basketball home games. He returned to the play-by-play microphone in 1983 where he covered the Maroons in football and basketball through 1999. Chuck's broadcasts of Little League and American Legion youth baseball included the Menominee Little League team that came within one game of the National Little League World Series. He has served as the voice of the Northernaires Drum and Bugle Corps since the days of Drums in the North. Chuck was also player and manager for local slow pitch and fast pitch softball teams and men's league basketball in Menominee. It's been said that Chuck has probably logged more miles following Maroon athletics than anyone.





# Denise Gentile James

Denise Gentile James won 13 major M's as an athlete and a member of the band while a student at Menominee High School. She was the first female athlete to win the Barbara Silverthorn Award. Denise won gold medals in both track and cross country, individuals and team medalist for gymnastics, as well as the most outstanding senior athlete award in 1983. She won 53 medals during her high school career. She also held the mile and two-mile records for women's track for numerous years. In 1986, she was a Green Bay Packer Cheerleader. She is a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity and rebuilding Together in Oklahoma where she also has managed men's soccer teams from 2009 through 2014. She has been a Physical Therapist's Assistant since 1989.



# Janet Hallfrisch Sbar

Janet Hallfrisch-Sbar (Class of '77) was a member of every sports team offered to women at MHS. Janet excelled in track & field, and was a member of the record-setting All- State Class A-B Mile Relay Team. Janet also set several school records in the discus and scored the most team points (103). Janet was the first female student-athlete to compete in two Varsity sports in the same season, as a #1 Singles Tennis player while a member of the Basketball team. She also competed in Gymnastics and Golf. Janet was named 1977 MHS Superstar Female Athlete of the Year. As a member of the first University of Michigan Women's Varsity Track Team in 1978, Janet had a successful career and was also able to throw javelin. She was inducted into the University of Michigan Women's Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2009. She received a B.A. (Education) in 1981, and M.A. (Guidance and Counseling) in 1982, with Honors. She is a Michigan Licensed Professional Counselor, and worked as a U.S. Department of Education Drug/Violence Prevention Program Coordinator, a University Instructor a science teacher, and guidance counselor. She has coached high school track & field, tennis, basketball and golf.



# Brent Nerat

Brent Nerat was a 1991 graduate of Menominee High School. During his years in school he was a member of the School's football, basketball, and track teams. He was the winner of the Barbara Silverthorn Award in 1991 and holds the record in the high jump at 6'8" along with Brady Schultz, who he is proud to coach. Brent led the Maroons to the U.P. Championship in track in 1991 and was part of the UP District Championship team. In 1990 he posted the highest jump by a prep athlete in the state. He was recognized as All-Conference, and All-State 3 consecutive years for his efforts in the high jump. He was also All-Conference in football his junior year and All-Conference in basketball in his sophomore through senior years. In basketball, Brent is a member of a very small club. He is 2nd all time in basketball scoring, with over 1,200 points. He was a three-year starter on Coach Pete Pericolosi's varsity team and went on to star at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, where he played for Ted VanDellen and was a three-year starter, and captain. In his senior year, his team went on to make the NCAA tournament and win more games in a season than any previous Oshkosh team. He was awarded the UW Oshkosh Outstanding Senior Athlete award to conclude his collegiate career.



# Tyler Tafelski

Tyler Tafelski achieved many distinguishing feats while participating in varsity wrestling and cross-country at MHS, graduating in 1997. He is a two-time wrestling U.P. State Champion, earning All American status by capturing his 100th win. He has a career record of 122-27, earning the most wins in school history as of 1997. He served as team captain his last two years and voted most valuable wrestler. "Amateur Wrestling News" named him to the 125-pound class "All American Team" in May of 1997 and "Wrestling USA" magazine named him top Army recruit as a wrestler for West Point during his plebe (freshman) year. Tyler's cross-country team won the UP State Championship his senior year. He is currently a member of the United States Army achieving the rank of Lt. Colonel.



# Drew Buyarski

Drew Buyarski was a multi-sport athlete graduating in 2000. He was a member of the 1998 State Championship football team. In 1999 he was named the GNC offensive and defensive player of the year, All-U.P. offensive player of the year, Class B All State team and to the All State dream team. In basketball he received All GNC honors his junior and senior year including All GNC defensive player of the year as a junior. In track, he was a two-time U.P. Champion high jumper and a U.P. long jumper as a senior. Drew was the recipient of the Barbara Silverthorne Award in 2000.



## 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

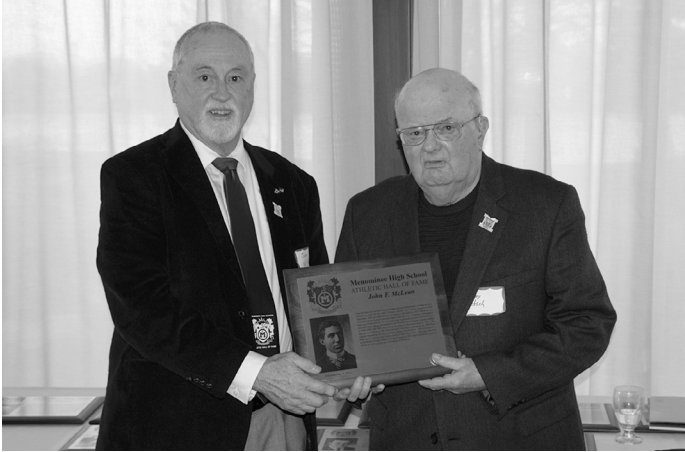


Tiffany Hodge Gilbert



1967 Basketball Team

## 2019 Inductee 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 Inductee Photos



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



Jim Payne



Bob Krysiak



Joe Johnson



Heather Nelson

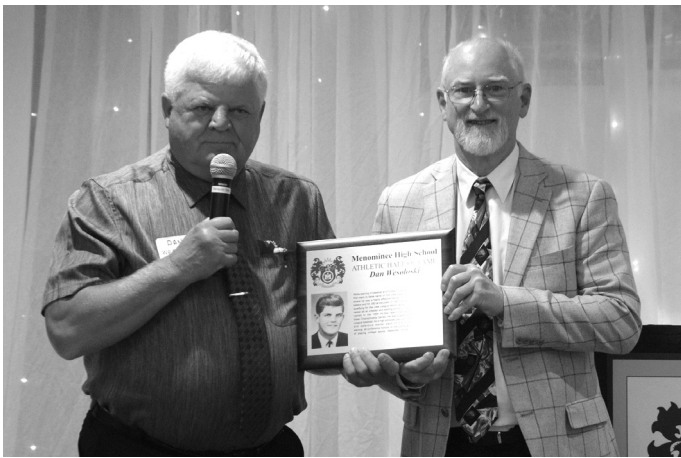
## 2021 Inductee Photos



Amanda Lingis Nelson  
for Walter Niemann



Toby Oreshoski for Joe Oreshoski  
with Randy Demeuse



Dan Wesoloski with Bill Jones



Michele Perket Harlow  
with Michele Lemire



Bret and Cathy Pearson

## 2021 Inductee Photos



Al Ruleau with Coach Owen Peterson



Peter Mayhew with Randy Verkerke



1998 Football Team

# 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.

Shooby's Trophies & Apparel

EagleHerald

Stephenson National Bank & Trust

Matt Lehman

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!*