

**MENOMINEE HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

5TH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY



**Saturday, May 6, 2023
Murray's Irish Pub & Grille
Menominee, Michigan**

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

INVOCATIONJohn Wills
OPENING REMARKSRandy Demeuse
MASTER OF CEREMONIESJohn Wills

John Noppenberg

Accepting on Mr. Noppenberg's behalf: Peter Noppenberg
Plaque Presenter: John Wills, Secretary, MSHOF

Jon David & Marye Mathieu

Plaque Presenter: Dave Mathieu

David Michael Miller

Plaque Presenter: Peter Mayhew

Chris Hofer

Plaque Presenter: Jerry Derusha

Joe Pfankuch

Plaque Presenter: Josh Kellner

Josh Tarbox

Plaque Presenter: Josh Kellner

Mandi Long Zemba

Plaque Presenter: Randy Verkerke

Korry Schwanz

Plaque Presenter: Pete Mayhew

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. Sam Larson	3rd Vice President
Mr. John Wills	Secretary/Treasurer

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Menominee High School Athletic Hall of Fame

Welcome to the 5th annual induction ceremony of the Menominee High School 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 in 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.

From a football player who graduated in 1935 and played collegiately at the University of Miami, later in the NFL, and coached at the high school level, to a couple whose names are synonymous with Maroon sports, a 50's basketball player who still holds the record for most points scored in a game, the prodigal Maroon coach's son who made a name for himself at the playing and coaching level, a football and basketball standout in the early 90's who became player of the year at both the prep and collegiate level, a football speed merchant known for setting a state record in kickoff returns earning all-state honors, a cross country and track runner who went on to become a 13 time All-American at the collegiate level, and a standout basketball player who became the woman who shot the highest 3-point percentage in the state and was a member of the Maroon girls' first unbeaten season, this class of inductees is a classic representation of athletic excellence at Menominee High School and beyond.

JOHN NOPPENBERG

Noppenberg, a 1935 graduate of Menominee High School, played fullback and linebacker for the Maroons in 1933 and '34 before moving on to play multiple positions for the University of Miami football team. He was drafted to play for the Pittsburgh Pirates (now the Steelers) in 1940 and was traded to the Detroit Lions a year later. When the United States entered World War II, he was summoned to work for the Florida East Coast Railroad. After his playing days ended, Noppenberg taught biology at Ponce de Leon High School in Coral Gables, Florida. He also coached football and debate, where one of his star debaters was Janet Reno, the eventual United States Attorney General under President Bill Clinton.



JON DAVID & MARYE MATHIEU

Dave Mathieu is considered to be the Godfather of wrestling in Menominee, and for good reason. When Menominee began its wrestling program in 1975, it was Mathieu who began the youth program the following year to provide early training and guidance to aspiring grapplers. The program continues to operate to this day and has churned out top-flight wrestlers for over 40 years. Mathieu was the head coach of the Maroons from 1985 until 1991. The wrestling room at Menominee High School is dedicated in his name.

Marye Mathieu, affectionately known as the “Mother of the Maroons”, served as president of the Menominee Booster Club for 40 years, volunteering countless hours. She was there taking tickets, working the concession stand, or selling Maroon apparel. Behind the scenes, she handled team picture orders, arranged for fan busses, and helped cover costs that were not in the school budget. She also served on the school board for 37 years. She passed away in 2021.



MIKE MILLER

Miller, a 1957 graduate was a two-sport standout at Menominee, earning all-conference honors in both football and basketball. While he was an All-Big Rivers Conference performer at end on the football field, Miller's exploits on the hardwoods are what truly stand out. A unanimous All-Conference selection, as well as an All-U.P. selection in his senior year, Miller established nine new scoring records during the 1956-57 season. He recorded a total of 478 points while averaging 28.2 points per game. Miller dropped 52 points in a 103-75 win against Iron Mountain; one of eight times he scored more than 30 points in a game. He finished his career with 803 points.



CHRIS HOFER

The last name of Hofer is synonymous with football at Menominee, something that Chris Hofer, a 1981 graduate, knows very well. The son of legendary Hall of Fame coach Ken Hofer, Chris starred as wingback and defensive back for his father's Maroon teams of 1979 and 1980. The younger Hofer was a First Team All-GNC selection and a First Team All-U.P. Class ABC running back as a senior, in addition to earning All-State honors from the Detroit Free Press as well as the UPI. He was also an All-State performer in Track in 1980 and 1981, winning the individual U.P. Championship in the 200 meter run while being part of the title-winning 400 and 800 meter relay squads. He was an All-State performer in 1980 and 1981. After graduation, he was a three-year starter at defensive back for Northern Michigan University and was drafted by the Birmingham Stallions of the USFL in 1986, but the league folded that same year. As a coach, he was in charge of Kingsford from 1987 until 2017. His Flivvers competed in the state finals in 1990, 1992, and 1996, and won the Class B state championship in 1993. He was U.P. Coach of the Year in 1990, 1993, 2012, and 2017. He was inducted into the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame in 2019.



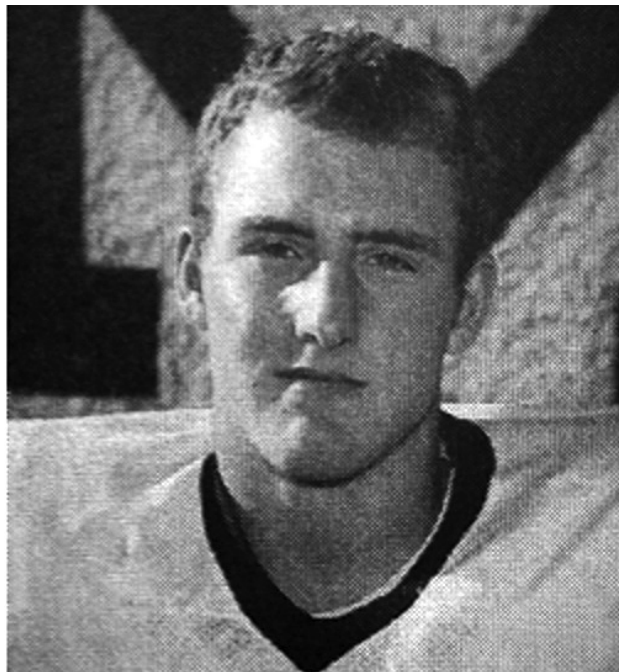
JOE PFANKUCH

Pfankuch, a 1995 graduate, excelled for Menominee's football teams of the early '90's. He was three-time All-GNC defensive back, as well as All-U.P. Dream Team for 1993 and 1994. He was also an All-State Honorable Mention as a junior. As a senior Pfankuch was an All-GNC choice at running back and an All-U.P. Dream Team selection on offense and defense. He capped his career off by being named 1st Team All-State as a defensive back. He was also team captain and team MVP. He was a two-time All-GNC basketball standout, earning the honors in 1993-94 and 94-95 seasons. He was also a two-year performer on the track team. Pfankuch, named Menominee's Male student athlete of the year in 1995, went on to enjoy a decorated career at NMU, earning All-Conference honors in 1997 and 1998, the same year he was named team Captain as well as the Wildcat's Male Student Athlete of the Year.



JOSH TARBOX

During his time at Menominee, Tarbox, a 1999 graduate, put the “special” in special teams for Coach Ken Hofer’s Maroon football teams. Tarbox returned six kickoffs for touchdowns during Menominee’s run to the class BB state championship in 1998, a Michigan state record and currently the third most all time in the entire country. Menominee’s MVP and captain on that 1998 squad, Tarbox was chosen by the Detroit Free Press and the Associated Press as an All-State selection as receiver. He was also an All-GNC First Team choice at running back and return specialist while being named the conference’s Offensive Player of the Year. He was an All-U.P. Dream Team selection at wide receiver as well. Tarbox’s speed was not limited to the gridiron. He was a two-time All-U.P. Champion as a senior, winning the 200 meter run as well as the 400 meter relay. Tarbox took home U.P. titles in the 100 and 200 meter runs along with the 400-meter relay as a junior. As a junior, Tarbox was also an All-State Class AB performer in the 100 and 200 meter runs as well as the 400 and 800-meter relays. He was a four-time All-State recipient (100M, 200M, 400M relay, 800M relay) as a senior. He was named All-Area Top Athlete by the Peshtigo Times in 1999.



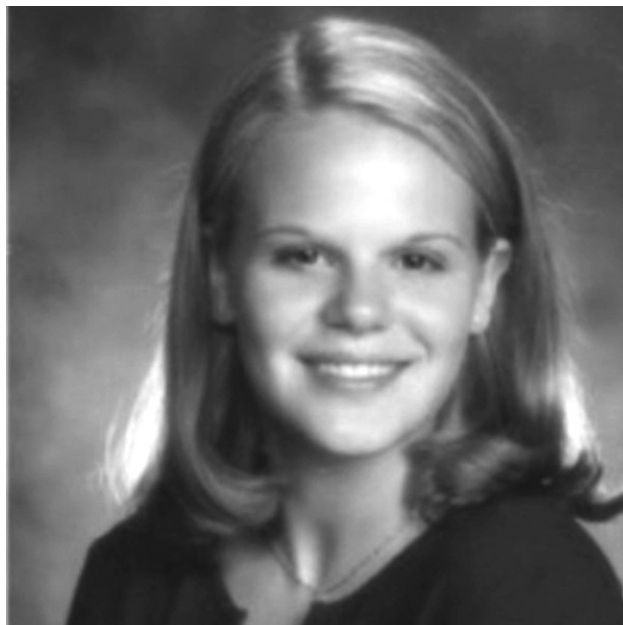
MANDI LONG ZEMBA

Zemba, a 2001 graduate, was a record-setting athlete during her four years in track and field, setting school records in the 3200, 1600, 800, and 3200 meter relay events as a senior. She was an All-State performer all four years. As a member of the cross-country teams, Zemba won U.P. titles in 1998 and 1999 and was a three-time All-U.P. Dream Team selection (1998-00). Zemba attended Grand Valley State University, where she won eight national championships and was a 13-time All-American. She competed in trials for the 2008 Olympics, finishing 18th overall in the 5K. Zemba ran for Team USA at the 2008 Pan-Am games in Rio de Janeiro, finishing eighth and placed seventh at the 2007 USA Track and Field Championships in the 5K. Zemba was inducted into the GVSU Hall of Fame in 2014 and the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame in 2016. Track historian Jim Moyes named Zemba one of the top ten female track athletes in the history of Michigan.



KORRY SCHWANZ

Schwanz is the golden standard by which all others are judged when it comes to Menominee Girls' basketball. The 2003 graduate is Menominee's all-time leader in assists and finished her career with 1,173 points. In the fall of 2000, Schwanz had the highest 3-point percentage in the state and helped guide the Maroons to its first-ever unbeaten season (19-0). A two-time All-U.P. Dream Team selection, Schwanz was the GNC Player of the Year in 2001 and 2002, earning Academic All-State honors both seasons. She was also a First Team All-State pick as senior. Schwanz's athleticism extended to the volleyball court, where she is the school's All-Time leader in sets and aces. Schwanz continued her hoops career at the University of Chicago where she graduated as one of the top backcourt performers in UChicago women's basketball history. She was Rookie of the Year in 2003-2004 and went on to be named All-UAA over the next three seasons. In 2006-07, Schwanz was the most accurate free throw shooter in NCAA Division III (93.2 percent) Schwanz closed out her playing days as UChicago's third-leading scorer with 1,226 points and currently ranks in the school's top ten in seven career categories. She was named to the UAA 25th Anniversary team in 2012. In October 2014, Schwanz was inducted into the UChicago Athletics Hall of Fame.



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

Allison Stewart

Chuck Patrick

Murray's Irish Pub & Grille

Jim Callow

"Maroon Fans" Decorating Committee

Josh Kellner

Donations to the Hall of Fame in 2023

Chis Hofer

Brent Nerat

Bill Jones

Korry Schwanz

Mike Miller

Dale Van Duinen

Previously Inducted

2018

Fred Norcross
Francis Tallent
Richard Lacousiere
Billy Wells
Larry Ebsch
Ken Hofer

Bill Rademacher
1967 Basketball Team
Pat Miller
Syd Wells
Tiffany Hodge Gilbert
Dick Deschaine

2019

John McLean
Mary Agnes Wall
Jack Streidl
Mike Shatusky
Fran Mellinger

Jim Payne
Heather Nelson
Bob Krysiak
Joe Johnson
Ron "Satch" Englund

2020

Walter Niemann
Joe Oreshoski
Dan Wesoloski
Micki Perket Harlow

Bret Pearson
Pete Mayhew
Al Ruleau
1998 Football Team

2022

Fred Matz
Dewey Bellisle
Janet Hallfrisch Sbar
Denise Gentile James

Brent Nerat
Tyler Tafelski
Drew Buyarski
Chuck Patrick



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