

PA ANNOUNCEMENT HOF MEMBERS

Please draw your attention to center court. As we announce our 2018 Wayne Athletic Hall of Fame class

The *Wayne Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2018* is sponsored by the Wayne Athletic Department, the Hall of Fame is dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of outstanding achievements by student athletes and adults in athletics at Wayne High School. Our first inductee is

1st Inductee: Athlete Steve Bates escorted by Wayne

Cheerleader Mattie Wilson. Mr. Bates was a 1977 graduate who participated in basketball. While at Wayne, Mr. Bates was named 2nd team all-state during the 76-77 season and to the all-city team for the 75-76 and 76-77 seasons. Following graduation, Mr. Bates accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of Arkansas after being recruited by the assistant coach at the time, Gene Keady. While at Arkansas, Mr. Bates played on the Arkansas 1977-1978 team that was in the Final 4. In 1978, Mr. Bates transferred to Michigan State University and was a redshirt transfer on the 1978-1979 National Championship team led by Magic Johnson. Throughout his college career, Mr. Bates played under legendary head basketball coaches Eddie Sutton and Jud Heathcote. After completing his business management degree at MSU in 1982, Mr. Bates completed his MBA in 1986 at DePaul University in Chicago. Following college, Mr. Bates entered the electrical wire and cable industry where he has been employed for the past 35+ years. He has worked for various companies and has enjoyed great success as a global business executive. Mr. Bates has traveled the world extensively since 1994, even living in Germany and China. He currently is the Global Sales Manager for Electron Beam

Technologies, a specialty welding cable company based in Kankakee, IL. Steve resides with his wife Laura in Marion, IN.
Congratulations Steve Bates

Our second inductee Kevin Craig (Athlete): Escorted by

Wayne Cheerleader Lesha Hill. A 1998 graduate, Mr. Craig ran track and played football. Mr. Craig was part of the 1995 state champion football team, was the 1995 state champion in the 200 meter dash (21.80), the state runner up of the 100 meter dash in 1997 (10.85) and state champion in the 100 meter dash in 1998 (10.56). Throughout his high school career, Mr. Craig was named to the all-state team three times for both the 100 and 200 meter dashes and the 4x100 relay two time. During his senior year, Mr. Craig was voted the track and field “Amateur of the Year” for the state of Indiana. In January of 2016, Mr. Craig was inducted into the Track and Cross Country Coaches “Hall of Fame” in Terre Haute, Indiana. Following high school, Mr. Craig attended Pasadena College in California for two years before returning to Fort Wayne. Mr. Craig now coaches in a mini football league where he works with young men, ages 7-12.

3rd Inductee is Alan Eldridge (Athlete): escorted by Wayne

Cheerleader Arianna Hoye.): Mr. Eldridge is a 1995 graduate of Wayne High School who participated in basketball. During his senior year at Wayne, Mr. Eldridge led the SAC conference in scoring, was named the News-Sentinel player of the year and was a member of the Indiana Boys All-Star Team. Mr. Eldridge was named to the All-Conference team during both his junior and senior year. After high school, Mr. Eldridge went on to play basketball at Purdue University, where he was a three-year starter and team captain in 1999. While at Purdue, Mr. Eldridge helped lead the Boilermakers to a big ten championship and four NCAA tournament appearances, including two trips to the Sweet 16. Mr. Eldridge graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor’s of science in business management and a minor in management information systems. Mr. Eldridge then went on to complete his MBA at the University of Indianapolis, where he also served as a graduate assistant to the men’s basketball coach. Mr. Eldridge

currently resides in West Palm Beach, Florida and serves as the Director of Distribution at the TCB corporation.

Our 4th Inductee is Charlie Greer (Contributor): posthumous

Mrs Greer is escorted by Wayne Cheerleader Thatina Jones. Mr. Greer was a 23 year employee of Wayne High School in the custodial department, 21 of which were spent as head custodian. During his tenure at Wayne, Mr. Greer volunteered his time to fire the cannon during home football games, provide the fog/smoke screen during basketball games, play the drums and bongos with the pep band and cook hickory grilled hot dogs and hamburger for student and faculty functions. Mr. Greer also founded a dance group called “Charlie’s Angels” who would perform during the half time of games. A Christian family man, Mr. Greer was always dressed in Columbia blue and red and exemplified “Wayne General Pride”. Mr. Greer took pride in maintaining a clean school environment and always impressed young students with his constant smile and intellect. Mr. Greer’s positive mental attitude was contagious; he made everyone who knew him feel better about life. Mr. Greer passed away on December 24, 2010 at the age of 63. He is survived by his wife, Thelma.

Our 5th Inductee (Coach Murray Mendenhall) : Escorted by

Wayne Cheerleader Erica Xararath. Mr. Mendenhall is a long time teacher, coach and athletic director at Wayne High School. Throughout his time at Wayne, Mr. Mendenhall served as the head basketball coach for 11 years, basketball assistant coach for 17 years, head golf coach for 11 years, assistant football coach for four years and as interim athletic director on four separate occasions. While working with the men’s basketball team, Mr. Mendenhall had an overall record of 123-116, the best three (51-17), four (68-23) and five (79-33) records in school history, was named “Area Coach of the Year” twice, won the Indiana All Star coach in 2007 and led the Generals to a conference championship in the 1999-2000 season. While working with the golf team, Mr. Mendenhall had a record of 113-69-2, led the Generals to a conference championship during the 1982-1983 season and to regionals twice. Mr. Mendenhall retired from Wayne in 2009 and currently lives in Fort Wayne with his wife.

Lastly our 1979 Indiana Girls State Track Championship Team

Which consisted of the following 6 members,

Sybil Perry Crauthers escorted by Wayne Cheerleader Baylee Fuller

Jacklin Cooper Chapman escorted by Wayne Cheerleader Veronica Millian

Robin Johnson escorted by Wayne Cheerleader Ahryona Jones

Judy Anderson Boyd escorted by Wayne Cheerleader Kiara Chapman

Melinda Barfield Batteast escorted by Wayne Cheerleader Catlin King

Patsy Russell Brewer escorted by Wayne Cheerleader Opresha Carter

The coach of the 1979 team was William Blooser escorted by Wayne Cheerleader Aamaya Thompson

The 1979 women's track team won both the regional and state titles that year.

. Congrats, Sybil Perry Crauthers, Jackin Cooper Chapman Robin Johnson, Judy Anderson Boyd Melinda Barfield Batteast, Patsy Russell Brewer and Coach William Blooser and congratulations to the entire 2018 Hall of Fame class.

