

## *Susie Bair, Class of 1977*



Susie Bair attended RHS at a time when the IHSAA was just starting to recognize girls' athletics. Rochester had an excellent group of young ladies and they represented RHS very well.

Susie was an integral part of four different programs. As a volleyball player, she was a first team All NLC player as well as the Mental Attitude Award winner. In the first year of the girls tourney, the volleyball won the Sectional and participated in the finals of the Regional.

As a basketball player, Susie was instrumental in leading the girls to a three year record of 53 wins and 4 losses. The Zebras had two undefeated regular seasons and two trips to the IHSAA Semi-State. Susie was first

team All NLC and led the team in field goal percentage, assists, and free throw shooting.

In the spring, Susie split her time between tennis and track. She was the tennis MVP in 1976. In 1977 Susie ran track on a team that had a 15-0 record and won the Northern Lakes Conference championship.

One of the most prestigious awards that Susie earned in high school was the Fellowship of Christian Athletes National Outstanding Female High School Athlete of the Year in 1977.

Upon graduation, Susie attended Indiana State University where she earned her BS degree in 1981, her MS in 1985, and her doctorate in 1991. As a volleyball player for the Sycamores, Susie earned awards for Most Improved in 1978 and Mental Attitude Award winner in 1980.

Susie is the daughter of Richard Bair and Jeannette Gooch. She currently lives in Amherst, New York and is the Vice President of Buffalo State College.

## *Steve Coplen, Class of 1965*



As a teacher, a coach, and a student-athlete, Steve Coplen has dedicated the majority of his life to Rochester High School. Many of his students and the athletes that played for him will tell you that Steve was simply the best that RHS had to offer. Upon retirement this year, he will have coached and taught Biology at RHS for 40 years.

As an athlete at Rochester, Steve earned 14 varsity letters in football, basketball, track, and baseball. He was a conference and team MVP in football and still holds the record for the most completed passes in one game at 27. Steve was also selected as the Most Valuable Player on the basketball and baseball teams during his senior year.

Upon graduation, Steve accepted a scholarship at attend Wabash College. An injury ended his football playing career but he continued to play and letter in baseball for the Little Giants. He was a Dean's List student for 5 semesters at Wabash and graduated in 1969.

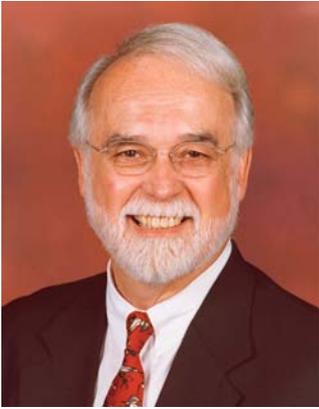
As a head baseball coach at RHS, Steve coached for seven years. In 1972, he led the Zebras to an NLC championship and in 1979, the Zebras captured the Sectional championship.

In football, Coach Coplen has 39 years as a head coach or assistant coach. He has been instrumental in turning out excellent offensive teams and outstanding running backs. As the offensive coordinator for the 1987 state champions, Steve was credited with calling one of the best offensive games in IHSAA football playoff history.

Steve has two sons, Danny (class of '94) and Mike (class of '99) and two grandchildren. Steve will retire from teaching at the end of the 2009 school year but will continue to coach football and work with our offensive and defensive backs.

## *John Hill, Class of 1954*

---



After 55 years, you can still look up in the hallway at RHS and see John Hill's name as the 200 Meter record holder for boy's track. Back in 1954, John probably did not even know what a meter was...he did however travel 200 yards in 22.0 seconds flat to make him one of the fastest Zebras in history!

John was a three sport athlete at Rochester during his high school career. He played basketball under Coach Bob Matthias and was a two year varsity letter-winner. John was a member of the 1950 football team that was the first since the depression years and he was a senior on the Central Indiana Conference champs (8-0-1) under Coach Bob Matthias. That team finished the season with an 8-0-1 record.

With John as a team captain and leading the way in the dashes, the 1954 track team was reported to be one of the best ever. The Zebras won the Rochester Relays and were champs in the very prestigious Goshen Relays in 1954. In track John and his teammates set records in the 100 Dash, the 200 Dash, the 880 Relay, and the Mile Relay. He was a three time CIC champion and a four time state qualifier in Track. John earned Bronze medals in the 100 yard dash and the 220 yard dash in 1954. After graduation, John was timed at 9.8 in the 100 yard dash at the State AAU championships.

Upon graduation, John attended Purdue University from 1954-1956. He earned the three degrees from Ball State University before being awarded his doctorate in Educational Administration from Ball State in 1983.

Dr. John Hill and his wife, Carole Ann live in Muncie. Their daughter is Mrs. Christina Pippen. John and Carole Anne have two grandchildren.

## *Jerry Knauff, Class of 1959*

---



Jerry Knauff will tell you that his fondest memories are growing up in Rochester and representing RHS on the basketball court under the watchful eye of Hall of Fame Coach Paul Rockwell.

As a young child, Jerry grew up with polio. He overcame this obstacle but did not make the varsity basketball team until his junior year. During his senior year of 1958-59, Jerry earned the Most Valuable Player Award for the Zebras. He was selected to the first team All Central Indiana Conference basketball team and earned the rebound trophy. He was also named as one of the top 100 players in the state of Indiana his senior year.

Jerry had many scholarship offers, but decided

to continue his career as a Bulldog representing Butler University. After his freshmen year, Jerry transferred to Southwestern University in Texas.

At Southwestern, Jerry was named as a Small College All American his senior year. He averaged 20+ points and 10+ rebounds and was named a team captain during his senior year.

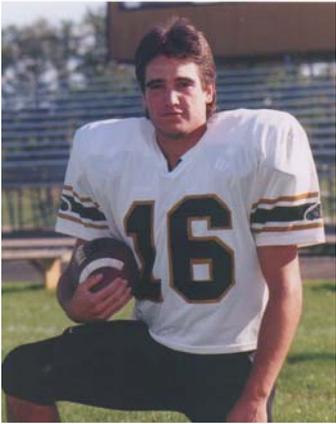
Jerry's father, Gerald, was a longtime Zebra fan and a fixture at all of the home football and basketball games as a ticket taker. The rebound trophy has been sponsored by the Knauff family in memory of Gerald.

Jerry graduated with a BBA from Southwestern University in 1964 and with a law degree from South Texas College of Law in 1966. Jerry continued to play basketball and earned a Gold Medal in the State of Texas Senior Olympics.

Jerry and his wife, Mitzie, live in Cypress, Texas. They have five children, Jerry Knauff, Jr., Cary Overbey, Cathy Ahart, Lindsey Buerger, and Lisa Cayton.

## *Brad McMillen, Class of 1989*

---



Brad McMillen is remembered by most as the quarterback that led the 1987 Zebras to a 2A state title. However, he was an outstanding three sport athlete as well as one of the top scholars in the class of 1989.

As a quarterback, Brad finished his career with 3,692 passing yards and 34 touchdowns. He won 27 games in three years at quarterback and earned many honors that included the Jim Ballenger Award, First Team All TRC, Team Captain, and Academic All State. As a senior, he led the Zebras to the first undefeated and untied regular season in Zebra history.

As a basketball player, Brad earned two varsity letters and served as the team captain

and was chosen as the Defensive Player of the Year in 1989.

Brad and his classmates also excelled in the sport of baseball at RHS. Brad earned four varsity letters over his career that saw the Zebras earn 4 Sectional baseball titles and 2 TRC conference championships. He was a team captain and an all conference baseball player.

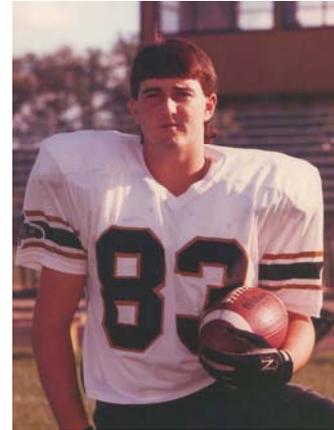
Brad completed his high school playing career, representing Rochester High School, as a member of the North All Star team. Brad started as defensive back in the All Star game and helped his team to an easy victory over the South squad.

Upon graduation from RHS, Brad attended Butler University where he graduated with honors in 1993 with a BA in Spanish and International Studies. He later earned his MBA from San Diego State University in 2000.

Brad is the son of Bill and Pat McMillen and has two sisters, Colleen (class of '87) and Sheila (class of '95). He currently works as a sales professional in Studio City, California.

## *Steve Ruckman, Class of 1989*

---



Many Zebra fans that watched Steve Ruckman play football, basketball, or baseball would argue that he was the best-ever all around athlete to attend Rochester High School. His stats could easily support that argument.

As a football player, Steve was a remarkable receiver, defensive back, return man, and kicker/punter. He was a four year letter-winner and scored the winning TD in the state championship game in 1987. He was all conference, an MVP, an all state receiver, and in the top 5 in scoring in the state with 154 points as a senior.

As a basketball player, Steve was the South Bend Tribune Area Player of the year in 1989 with a 30.1 scoring average. This MVP and first team Small School

All Stater led his team to a conference championship. He holds the RHS school record of 50 points and the Peru gym record with 52 points in a game.

As good as he was at basketball and football, Steve's greatest love was the baseball field. He was a four year letter-winner and led the Zebras to four Sectional baseball titles. He was all conference three years and led the Zebras with a .511 batting average in 1989.

Steve was recruited to Indiana State to play basketball and baseball. After one year of basketball, Steve focused on the diamond. He was named as a Freshmen All American in 1991 and was all Missouri Valley Conference in 1993 and 1994. He holds the Sycamore record for the highest fielding percentage at third base.

Steve went on to play five years of semi-pro baseball and was named to the Frontier League's 10 Year Anniversary team. He nows lives in Evansville where he works as a retail manager. He and his wife, Laura, have four children: Haley, Blake, Tyler, and Matt.

## *Kelly (Harshman) Welch, Class of 1980*



Kelly was simply the best track sprinter in the history of Rochester High School. Classmate Arik Lee remembers “even in practice none of the guys on the track team wanted to run against Kelly for fear of getting beat by a girl!” Although Kelly was a three-sport athlete as a member of the volleyball and girls basketball squads under Coach Betty Clark, it was on the track where she really dominated as an athlete.

Kelly was a member of an undefeated track team. She and her teammates put together a perfect 15-0 season, won the Northern Lakes Conference championship, and the 1977 IHSA Sectional Championship.

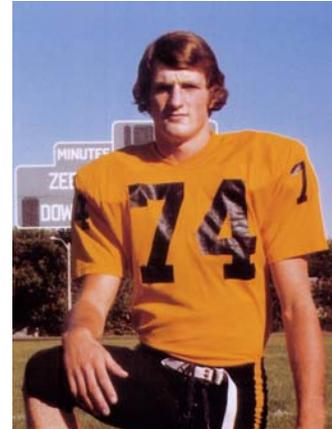
As a track individual, Kelly scored the most points

on the girl’s team for four years at RHS. She won six NLC championships and six Sectional championships in three individual events and two relays in her career at RHS. During her senior year, she won the Regional in the 400 Meter Dash, was the high point scorer and “Queen” of the Rochester Relays, and was named the Loganland Star of Stars at the Fred Kinder Invitational Track Meet.

Kelly qualified for the state meet four consecutive years. In 1977 as a freshman at the state meet, she failed to place. As a sophomore in 1978, Kelly finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the 200 Meter Dash and as a junior in 1979, she finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the 400 Meter Dash at the state meet. Kelly’s best finish in the state track meet was in her senior year where she finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 400 Meter Dash. Kelly still holds the records for the 100 Meter Dash (12.2 ), the 200 Meter Dash (25.1), and the 400 Meter Dash (57.3) for RHS.

Currently, Kelly and her husband, Jack live in Punta Gorde, Florida. Kelly has six children; Jack E. Welch, Taylor Welch, Morgan Welch, Chad Puterbaugh, Joshua Puterbaugh, and Stephanie Patterson. Kelly is the Dining Room Manager at Twin Isle Country Club in Punta Gorde.

## *Jeff McLochlin, Class of 1979*



Jeff McLochlin wore many hats. He was a police officer, a member of the US Army and National Guard, a father, and a hero to many in the community of Rochester.

Jeff was a four sport athlete during his career at RHS. He played baseball, football, and basketball and ran track. As a member of the basketball team, he earned the Most Improved Award during his senior year. As a member of the Zebra track squad, Jeff and his teammates set a school record in the Mile Relay. However, Jeff’s favorite sport was football. Jeff was a two time NLC selection at linebacker and a two time winner of the prestigious Ron Shearer Award for defensive excellence. As a senior at RHS, he was honored as a co-captain and as the team MVP. Statewide, Jeff was honored

as a linebacker on the AP Class 2A All State team, UPI Honorable Mention linebacker, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Loganland, and a member of the Region 4 All Star team.

Jeff was also an outstanding student-athlete and was recognized as a Hoosier Scholar. He received a scholarship to Wabash College where he majored in Psychology and played football. In 1982, Jeff led the Little Giants to an undefeated season. He was named Outstanding Defensive Back, set a school record with 142 tackles, and earned All American honors.

After college, Jeff joined the U.S. Army and served with the 2/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion until 1990. He parachuted into the Panama Canal Zone during Operation Just Cause. As a member of the Indiana National Guard, he served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm and in Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. During the summer of 2006, Jeff was killed by sniper fire during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

At Jeff’s memorial service, Governor Mitch Daniels stated that, “If Indiana ever gave birth to an eagle, it was Jeff McLochlin. He gave his entire life to service and the protection of others.”

## *Paul Rockwell, Class of 1927*



Paul Rockwell, a.k.a. Rocky graduated from RHS in 1927 and was the top athlete in his class. Paul was the starting center on the Zebra basketball team from 1924 through 1927. The Zebras were 24-3 in 1924-25 under Coach Charles Ivey and they won the District tourney. In 1925-26, Rocky led RHS in scoring with 221 points. The team was 16-10 and won the Sectional tourney.

In the fall of 1926, Rocky was one of 26 young men that played on the Zebra's first football team; they finished with a record of 1-4 with the first victory over Logansport. Paul was also a four year member of the Zebra track and field team. Rocky competed in numerous events for the Zebras. During his senior year, he won the Kokomo Relays in the shot put and the low hurdles.

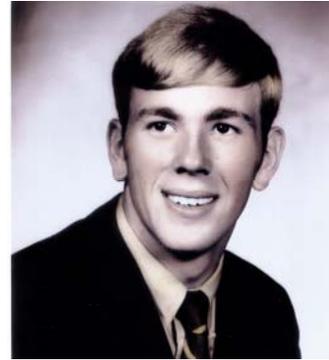
Upon graduation from RHS, Paul Rockwell took his talents to Hanover College.

He continued to excel as an athlete, a student, and a leader. He was a captain on the Panther's basketball team. He was the President of the Senior class, winner of the outstanding senior athlete award, and graduated with a B.S. Degree from Hanover College in 1931.

In 1932, Rocky returned to Fulton County as the basketball coach at Richland Center. He spent 9 years at Richland Center before he took the football and basketball positions at Noblesville. At Noblesville, Coach Rockwell had two undefeated seasons in football. Paul returned to Richland Center in 1956 where he posted a 182-37 basketball record over ten years. In 1950, Coach Rockwell's squad advanced to the Semi-State. In 1953, Richland Center won another Sectional championship under Rocky's tutelage.

In 1956, Rocky came to Rochester High School where he posted 89 more basketball wins and coached football and tennis for the Zebras until 1963. Paul and H. Clara Belle Rockwell retired to Lake Manitou where he became well known as one of the best bluegill fisherman on the lake until he passed away in 1987.

## *John Shirley, Class of 1970*



John Shirley graduated in 1970 from Rochester High School and was recognized by his coaches as the best overall athlete to come out of RHS in a very long time. John was a standout in baseball, football, basketball, and track.

As a quarterback, John led the Zebras to the best football record in RHS history up to that point in time. Coach Bob Pedigo's 1969 Zebras were 9-1 on the gridiron and were crowned as NLC Champs. John was named as a co-MVP on the football squad along with fellow RHS Hall of Famer, Dave Foellinger. He also garnered 1<sup>st</sup> team All NLC honors and was an honorable mention All State defensive back.

John played basketball for the Zebras under three different head coaches, but it was during his senior year under Coach Jim Powers that Shirley and his teammates really thrived. John was named as the basketball MVP on a team that had the best record at RHS for nearly 25 years. The

basketball team finished with a record of 17-6 and won their Holiday Tournament and were Loganland Area Champs. As an individual, John was recognized as a first team All Loganland selection.

As good as John Shirley was in the sports of football and basketball, his best sport was probably baseball. Coach Steve Coplen remembers John as being the best baseball player to ever play at RHS and Jim Powers remembered John as a gentleman, a great competitor, and a phenomenal baseball talent. In his senior season, he led the Zebras to an excellent baseball season and was selected by his teammates as the MVP and tabbed by conference coaches as an All NLC 1<sup>st</sup> team selection. For his baseball excellence, John was drafted by the Atlanta Braves baseball organization.

When basketball season came to an end and before baseball got geared up in the summer, John participated as a member of the Zebra track squad. He was recognized mainly as a pole vaulter and he routinely broke the 12' barrier that was considered outstanding for high school vaulters in the 1960's.

After graduation from RHS, John attended Marian College where he continued to participate in basketball and baseball and studied Physical Education.

## *Todd Smith, Class of 1981*



Todd Smith became the first Rochester High School athlete to win an individual state championship when he was the IHSAA low medallist (144) at the state golf championship in 1980. In that same year, Todd led his teammates (brother Terry Smith, cousin John Sawyer, cousin Rob Sawyer, and Mike Shafer) to the IHSAA Team State Championship in Golf.

As a high school golfer under Coach John Roberts, Todd racked up numerous honors from 1978 to 1981. Besides the individual and team championship in 1980, Todd won the very prestigious IHSAA Mental Attitude Award for golf in 1981. In the state tournament during Todd's high school career, he was an individual sectional champion three times, a one-time regional champion, and was twice named to the 1st Team

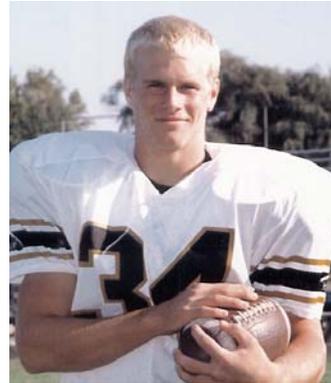
All State team. The teams that Todd played on chalked up three Sectional Championships, two Regional Championships, and two Northern Lakes Conference Championships. As an individual, Todd was named first team All NLC for all four years in high school. In Todd's senior year, he was named as a High School All American.

Upon graduation from RHS, Todd accepted a scholarship to play at Auburn. He was named to the All SEC 1st team golf squad in 1982 and 1985. In 1985, Todd graduated from Auburn with a degree in Industrial Relations and Business Management.

Since graduation from Auburn, Todd has continued with his career in golf. He currently is the course professional at Rock Hollow Golf Course in Peru, Indiana. He has been named as the Indiana PGA Player of the Year nine times. In 2002, he was named as the Indiana PGA Golf Professional of the Year, and he has played in five PGA Championship Events.

Todd and his wife, Claire, live in Peru and have two children, Brad (18) and Erin (16).

## *Tim Walker, Class of 1988*



Tim Walker was the best all around student-athlete from the class of 1988 at Rochester High School. Tim earned a total of 10 varsity letters in football, wrestling, and track at RHS.

As a wrestler, Tim was a conference champion and an IHSAA Sectional champ. As a track athlete, Tim was a sprinter, a high jumper, and a hurdler. He qualified for the regional meet as a senior in the 300 hurdles. Tim was honored as a team captain in all three sports his senior year.

Tim's class marked the end of a big rebuilding process for the Rochester football program. Tim became a starter in his freshmen year at tailback and as a sophomore, Tim led the Z's to their first Football Sectional Championship. The Zebras lost a 9-3 game to the eventual state champs from Ft. Wayne Bishop Luers. As a junior, Tim started at linebacker and tailback and was named to

the 1<sup>st</sup> team All Northern Lakes Conference team. In his senior year, Tim and his classmates finished a 12-2 season by claiming the state championship game with a 23-20 comeback win over Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter. After that incredible win, Tim and his parents were further honored as he was called upon to accept the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award for class 2A football.

Tim was all state, all conference, and all area as a senior. He was chosen to represent Rochester in the 1988 North/South All Star team. Tim and Zebra teammate, Danny Boyd, closed the chapter on high school athletics as they and their teammates from the North defeated the South in a fourth quarter come-from-behind victory.

Upon graduation from RHS, Tim took his academic and athletic talents to Butler University where he majored in Biology and played football for the Bulldogs. After graduation from Butler, he received his Master's from IUPUI and then went on to graduate in 1998 from the Indiana University Medical School. Tim and his wife, Heather have four children; Whitney (15), Amy (8), Brock (7), and Ellie (3). Dr. Tim Walker practices as an Orthopedic Surgeon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

## *David Foellinger, Class of 1970*



David Foellinger lists his top honor as a high school player as being a “member of a great team!” He always gave credit to his offensive line (and line coach Burns Becht) as well as his hard-nosed fullback, Wayne Grube. David was described by the football staff at Princeton as a “hard worker and great team player.” However, the reality of it was that David Foellinger was a tremendous student-athlete and a remarkable football player on some of the best teams in the history of Rochester High School. As a senior on Coach Bob Pedigo's squad, David was selected as an All American running back by Coach and Athlete Magazine. In that season, he set scoring (218 points in a season) and rushing records (2465 yards) for the state of Indiana. He also set a record for the most yards in a single game when he rushed for 453 yards on 29 carries. He was a

captain on the first Northern Lakes Conference championship football team. He was also the first Zebra to play in the North/South All Star game. As a result of his phenomenal high school football career, his #40 jersey was retired by Rochester High School and permanently enshrined in the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 1977.

At RHS, David was the RHS Student Council President, was a member of the National Honor Society, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He was selected by the staff as the 1969/70 Most Valuable Athlete and Outstanding Senior Boy. David was also a four year letterwinner in Track and Field and was named as a captain and an MVP.

David earned a scholarship at Princeton University where he participated in four years of football and graduated with a degree in Psychology in 1974. His thesis was nominated for the Departmental Prize in Psychology and he was published in the Journal of Child Psychology, the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, and the Nassau Literary Magazine. David currently lives in Hawaii where he is a Marine Naturalist and a Boat Captain.

## *Damon Hummel, Class of 1994*



Damon was a state level athlete in three sports at RHS. On the gridiron, Damon started for four years. He was an All State Punter as a sophomore, was an All Conference and All Area linebacker as a junior, and was selected as an all conference running back as a senior. He was a team MVP and the only player at RHS to be named to the prestigious IFCA Top Fifty team. He was selected to play and represent Rochester in the North/South All Star football game.

In wrestling, Damon was a four time state qualifier. He never lost a regular season match in four years of varsity competition and only lost six matches in his career. Damon won over 20 championships in his four year wrestling career. In his four trips to the state finals, Damon finished second

two times and third once as a 215 pound heavyweight.

In track and field, Damon was named as our MVP four times. He won the TRC and the Sectional four years in the Discus and the High Jump. He qualified at the state in the discus two years and in the shot put one year. He still holds the RHS record in the discus. As a result of his phenomenal career in three sports at RHS, he was named as the 1994 South Bend Tribune's Male Athlete of the Year.

Upon graduating from Rochester High School, Damon walked on in football at Ball State University where after one season, he earned a full Division I scholarship. In playing for the Cardinals, he started 45 consecutive games at defensive tackle, was named as a first team All Mid-American Conference defensive player, and was selected as a team captain in 1998. Upon graduation, the Toronto Argonauts of the CFL signed Damon in 1999.

Currently, Damon teaches Industrial Technology at Speedway High School. He is still active in three sports serving as the Sparkplug's defensive coordinator in football, head wrestling coach, and assistant track coach.

## *Dick King, Class of 1943*



Dick was an outstanding basketball player on a #1 ranked and Regional championship team for the Rochester Zebras in the 1942/43 season. Dick was the leading scorer on a 21-3 team that was considered by many to be one of the best all time Zebra squads. The Zebras were ranked #1 in the state through the first half of the season. Their first loss came to a team from South Bend Central that was coached by Johnny Wooden and led by future Zebra basketball coach, Jim Powers. Dick played basketball and ran track for legendary coach Clyde Lyle at RHS. As a basketball player, he was selected to First Team All Conference honors in the Central Indiana Conference and was named to the Indiana Basketball All State team. In 1968, Dick was named to the Indiana Hall of Fame Silver Anniversary team along with Jim Powers from South Bend Central.

After graduation from RHS, Dick attended the University of Western New Mexico on a basketball scholarship. Dick had a tremendous four year career at Western and was inducted into the Western New Mexico Athletic Hall of Fame. He graduated from Western with a teaching degree, coaching endorsement, and a Masters in Administration.

Dick coached one year in New Mexico prior to moving to Tucson, Arizona. In Tucson, Dick coached basketball and won over 80% of his games. He was selected as the Coach of the Year for the Tucson area four times and in 1965 his team won the Arizona State Championship. Dick served as the Athletic Director at Rincon High School in Tucson for the last 15 years of his career in education. For his years of dedication and excellence in Tucson, he was named to the Pima County and Tucson Athletic Hall of Fame.

Dick King has been married for 55 years to his wife, Mary King. Dick and Mary have three children; one daughter, Tricia Shutz, and two sons, Scott and Steve King.

## *Sheila (McMillen) Keller, Class of 1995*



From the time that she was a very young girl, Sheila had a passion for the sport of basketball. By the time she graduated from RHS, Sheila had become the leading scorer in the history of basketball at RHS. She was an Indiana All Star, a Nike All Star, a Parade All American, a 3 time AAU All American, a two-time member of an AAU National Championship team, and a first team All State player. In her senior season, Sheila was the second leading scorer in the state and Coach Malchow's squad won the Sectional before being defeated by Valparaiso. Sheila was a 4 time All TRC selection and was twice named by the South Bend Tribune as the area Player of the Year.

Sheila was also a first team All TRC Volleyball player and helped the Zebras to four consecutive Sectional championships. She also

participated in softball her freshmen and senior years and earned All Conference honors in her third sport. Academically, Sheila graduated 3<sup>rd</sup> in her class, earned an Academic Honors Diploma, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was elected Student Body Vice President.

Sheila received an athletic scholarship at the University of Notre Dame where she went on to have an outstanding career for Coach Muffett McGraw's Fighting Irish. She became the first ND player to participate in four straight NCAA tournaments and the 1997 team went to the Final Four. At ND, Sheila was selected as a team captain, named the team MVP, set a record for the most 3 point field goals made in a season and in a game, and closed out her career with 1,439 points.

After graduating from Notre Dame, she took a position as an assistant basketball coach for two years at Western Michigan University and for one year at Northwestern University. Currently, Sheila is employed by the NCAA as a staff assistant for championship events and is an assistant basketball coach at Indianapolis Cathedral.

## *John Nelson, Class of 1947*



John Nelson was a tremendous student-athlete who graduated from RHS in 1947 with letters in varsity softball, baseball, golf, tennis, and basketball. As a Zebra basketball player, John was an outstanding center and leading scorer on a Zebra basketball team that posted a 19-5 record in his senior season. He was named to the All CIC First Team and was the third leading scorer in the conference. He was an excellent softball pitcher and played on a team that was undefeated for three years in a row. John earned three varsity letters in baseball, was a city and conference champion in tennis, and a member of the golf team. Along with his athletic career at RHS, John was active in Tri-Ep, a member of the Boys' Chorus, the Men's Glee Club,

the Northern Indiana Chorus, HiY, and the Annual Staff.

After graduation, John attended Valparaiso University on a four year athletic scholarship where he was reunited with another former RHS great and former teammate, Bill Schroer. While at Valpo, John continued his athletic career in basketball and baseball. In his junior and senior year, John was the leading hitter on the Crusader's baseball team. John graduated from Valparaiso in 1951 with a B.S. in History and Physical Education.

In 1951 John began a very successful 41 year teaching and coaching career at Dover, Aubbeenaubee Township, and Culver Community High School. In 1975, John Nelson was named as Culver High School's first Director of Athletics and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1992. Upon retirement, John continued to be active in Fulton County as one of the early members of FEDCO and was instrumental in the formation of the Fulton County Community Foundation. His commitment to education never wavered as he served as the Scholarship Director of the Northern Indiana Community Foundation for nine years.

## *Rochelle (Shelly) Newell, Class of 1976*



Shelly Newell was one of Rochester High School's first great female athletes. She participated at a time when women's athletics in Indiana were just starting to move from the age of G.A.A. competition to full fledged IHSA seasons and tournaments. As a basketball player, Shelly was a four time Rochester MVP who averaged 24.5 points per game over her career. Without the benefit of the three-point line, Shelly scored 1250 points in 52 games. She also averaged an amazing 16 rebounds per game during her career. Longtime Athletic Director Bill Schroer stated that "Shelly could take over a high school basketball game like no player that he had ever seen." She led the Zebras to an undefeated regular season in 1976 and to a four year record of 47-5. She was selected to the first Indiana All Star team

in 1976. For her efforts in high school basketball, she was named to the Silver Anniversary team in 2002 and inducted to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004.

Shelly was a four time MVP in track at RHS. She qualified for the state track and field meet for four years. She placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the shot put as a freshman, 4<sup>th</sup> as a sophomore, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in her junior and senior seasons. She still holds the record for the shot put at Rochester High School with an incredible 42' 2 1/2".

Shelly was also selected as the MVP in volleyball for three years and was a pitcher on a state championship ASA softball team in 1975. She was a member of the National Honor Society and accepted a scholarship to compete at Indiana State University in basketball. While at Indiana State University, Shelly was a four year starter, led the team in scoring for three of those years, and scored 1435 points. She still is at the top of many of the statistical categories for the Lady Sycamore basketball team and was chosen as a member of the All Century team at Indiana State.

Shelly currently teaches and is the head basketball and volleyball coach at Argos High School.

## *Hugh Barnhart, Class of 1911*



Over his lifetime, Hugh Barnhart did as much for Rochester Athletics as any person in the history of Zebra sports. Hugh was not only one of the earliest outstanding Zebra athletes, but throughout his lifetime he continued to help put Rochester Athletics on the map.

Hugh was a member of the varsity basketball team at RHS for five seasons. He was recognized as one of the best forwards on a team that won the Northern Indiana Championship. Although he graduated in 1911, Hugh was also a "weekend member" of the Zebras varsity basketball team as he commuted from his freshmen year at Notre Dame.

After his initial year at Notre Dame, Hugh transferred to Indiana University where he majored in economics and graduated in 1915. While at

I.U., Hugh played varsity football, varsity basketball, served as member of the Union Board, and was elected as the senior class president.

After a stint in the army during the First World War, Hugh returned to Rochester as the editor and publisher of *The Sentinel* in Rochester. Upon his father's death in 1934, he became the head of the Rochester Telephone Company at a time when the company served 1,400 customers. Hugh worked in the telephone and the newspaper business until 1956, when Jack Overmyer took over as the editor and publisher of *The Sentinel*.

On June 25, 1928, Hugh married Martha Anspach. The couple had no children, but they spent much of their time, energy, and enthusiasm for the betterment of the city of Rochester and the young people who attended Rochester Community Schools. In 1972, Hugh and Martha donated money to RHS for the construction of the new athletic field, which was named Barnhart Field by the Board of Education. Hugh and Martha's continued generosity over the years has allowed RHS to make needed renovations and improvements to the athletic facilities.

## *Clyde Lyle, Head Basketball Coach 1932-1949*



Clyde Lyle is simply the most successful basketball coach in the history of Rochester High School. Coach Lyle guided the Zebras to 230 wins against only 130 losses in his 15 year career at RHS. In 1983 at a reunion of former players one stated, "This night shows what a tremendous influence one man has had on so many lives. As far as we're concerned, he is a legend."

Clyde graduated from Lawrence High School near Indianapolis in 1925. He took his basketball and baseball talents to Purdue University. While at Purdue, Coach Lyle was a three year performer for the Boilermakers in both sports. In 1928, Clyde helped lead the Boilers to a Big Ten basketball championship. In 1929, he was awarded the prestigious Big Ten medal for scholarship and athletics.

In 1932, Coach Lyle came to RHS as its football, baseball, basketball, and track coach. In the midst of the great depression, football died out due to lack of equipment and funds, but Coach Lyle continued to coach three sports each year at RHS. He also was known as an excellent health and social studies teacher who wanted the chance to interact with all RHS students. In his 15 year basketball career at RHS, Coach Lyle led the Zebras to seven Sectional championships and one Central Indiana Conference championship. Three Zebra squads, led by Lyle, claimed Regional Championships, and in 1937/38 RHS made it to the final four of the IHSAA State Tournament. Coach Lyle was inducted to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1969.

After Rochester High School, Clyde Lyle accepted the position of Director of Physical Education and Athletics for the Hammond City School Corporation. Coach Lyle and his wife, Esther, left Hammond to return to West Lafayette in 1966 to work in the Boilermakers' baseball program. Coach Lyle currently resides in Westminster Village in West Lafayette.

## Laura (Newcomb) Titus, Class of 1977



In his book, *Z-Roots*, Bill Schroer described Laura Newcomb as "Miss Everything". While at Rochester High School, Laura earned nine varsity letters in track, basketball, and volleyball. She also was a three year varsity cheerleader and played on two state ASA softball champions as a member of the Baxter Beauty's.

In basketball at RHS, Laura played on two teams that were undefeated in the regular season and advanced to the final 8 teams in the state. Her three year record in basketball was 53 wins against just 4 losses. During her senior season, she led the team in scoring and rebounding, was selected as a team captain, was named to first team All NLC, was selected as the team MVP, and was selected to represent Indiana on the All Star Team

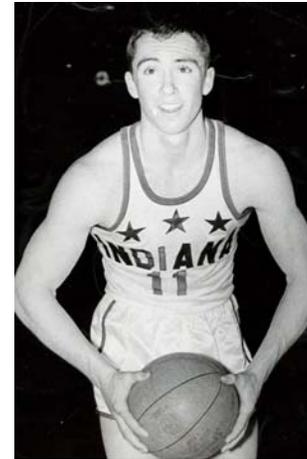
in the Kentucky/Indiana series. During her senior year in track, Laura was a member of a team that went 15-0 and won the Sectional and Northern Lakes Conference meet. As an individual, Laura advanced to the state in high jump and was awarded the team's Most Valuable Athlete Award.

As a varsity cheerleader for Rochester High School she was one of 10 nationwide recipients of the Outstanding Senior Cheerleader Awards presented by the USCA. During her senior year, Laura also received the Gladys Kelce Award (along with RHS classmate, Susie Bair) as the Fellowship of Christian Athlete's top female athlete in the nation.

Upon graduation from RHS, Laura attended Purdue University. She graduated from Purdue with Distinction and lettered three years for the Boilermakers. Laura became the first two time MVP in the Purdue women's basketball program.

Laura is an elementary teacher in Brownsburg and is married to current Brownsburg High School Athletic Director, Bill Titus. Bill and Laura have three children, Ryan (age 18), Mark (age 15), and Jayne (age 11).

## Steve Norris, Class of 1966



When Richland Center closed their doors and the students were sent to the new Rochester High School, Rochester was very pleased to welcome Steve Norris, who was one of the top basketball players in the Rochester area. Steve graduated from Rochester High School in 1966 and in his one year athletic career at Rochester, he became one of Rochester's top athletes of all time.

During his senior year at Rochester, Steve played for Coach Ken Pennington and was named as the Most Valuable Player. In the 1965/66 season, Steve scored 520 points, led his team to a first place finish in the Northern Lakes Conference, was named to the NLC First Team, and was selected as our first and only Rochester boys basketball player to play

on the Indiana All Star Team against the Kentucky all stars. In 1991, Steve was named to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame's Silver Anniversary team for his outstanding accomplishments at RHS. Steve also participated in cross country, baseball, and track at Rochester. At 5'8" tall, Steve set an incredible high jump record of 6'7".

Steve attended Butler University, where he graduated with his Bachelor of Science degree in 1970. While at Butler, Steve continued to compete in both basketball and track for the Bulldogs. Steve was selected as the Bulldogs' Most Valuable Player during the 1968/69 and 1969/70 basketball seasons. During his senior season, Steve was selected to receive the prestigious Hilton U. Brown Award for basketball. He was also selected as the Outstanding Male Athlete at Butler University in 1970. In 2001, Steve was inducted into the Butler University Hall of Fame for his basketball and track accomplishments.

Steve currently is a mathematics teacher and assistant track coach at Carmel High School outside of Indianapolis. He and his wife, Shari, have four children; Brian, Angie, Heather, and Ali.

## *Bill Schroer, Class of 1945*



Bill Schroer was Mr. Athletics at Rochester High School for much of his adult life. He spent 38 years at Rochester High School as a teacher and coach with the last 26 of those years being Rochester's first Athletic Director.

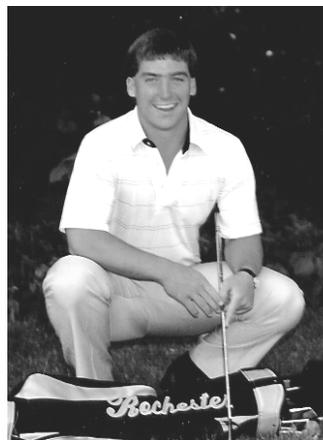
Bill was the senior class president at Rochester High in 1945. While at R.H.S., he competed in softball, basketball, and track. He was a member of two sectional championship teams in 1944 and 1945. As a senior, Bill was named to the All Sectional, All Regional, and All Central Indiana Conference teams. In 1945, Bill set a school free throw record, was the leading scorer in the C.I.C., and was named as the Most Valuable Player.

Bill graduated from Valparaiso University in 1951. While at Valpo, Bill lettered five years in basketball, two years in track, and one year in baseball. He was the 1949 national free throw champion, the 1950 most valuable player, and the 1951 team captain. During the '49/50 season, Bill was named to the Colliers Magazine All-American Team. In his career at Valparaiso, Bill set the career record for free throws and was the second high scorer in Valpo history. Bill was inducted to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame as a member of the Silver Anniversary Team.

Bill coached basketball at Talma and Rochester before becoming the first athletic director at Rochester High School in 1961. As an A.D., Bill organized and was the treasurer for the Northern Lakes Conference. He was also a co-sponsor for the Rochester Fellowship of Christian Athletes from 1966 to 1975.

Bill, who passed away October 2001, was married to Charlene, who worked at Woodlawn Hospital. Their two daughters are; Deborah Habig of Carmel and Cindy Cerami of the greater Los Angeles area. They also have three grandchildren; Kelsay, William Joseph (Gus), and Joseph Ayrton.

## *Chris Smith, Class of 1987*



While Rochester High School has had hundreds of great high school athletes over the years, Chris Smith stands out because of his ability to move to the professional ranks in his chosen sport. Last June, Chris won for the first time on the professional golf tour at the Westchester Country Club in the Buick Classic. In 2002, Chris ranked 58th overall on the professional tour. He holds the record for the longest drive in tour history with a 427 yard blast in the '99 Honda Classic.

While at RHS, Chris had a remarkable career as a member of the golf team under Coach John Roberts. During his four year career, Chris earned All Northern Lakes Conference golf honors each season and won the tournament three of those years. In his four years, Chris and the Zebra golf team were

perfect in Conference and Sectional competition. At the Sectional level, he was the individual low medallist each year and the team won four consecutive titles. During his sophomore year, the Zebras went on to qualify for the state tournament and Chris went on to win the state individual crown with a two day score of 149. As a junior, the team advanced to the state finals at Old Oakland, where they finished fourth. In his final year of golf at RHS, the RHS squad once again qualified for the state tournament and Chris finished his high school career as the second low medallist. He topped off his outstanding career by being selected as the Fred A. Keesling Mental Attitude Award winner by the IHSAA following in the footsteps of his older brothers, Todd and Terry.

Chris chose to play golf on the collegiate level at Ohio State University. In 1991, he was a first team All American at Ohio State. Chris was also a five-time winner on the Nike tour in preparation for his career as a professional golfer on the PGA tour.

Chris currently lives in Peru, Indiana, near the Rock Hollow golf course. Chris and his wife, Beth have two children, Abigail and Cameron.

## *Jim Swank, Class of 1973*



Jim Swank was born in Lafayette on October 27, 1954. His family moved to Rochester in 1960. Jim's father, Dean, is deceased but his mother, Barbara, still lives in Rochester and is still a supporter of Zebra Football.

Jim was a member of the Rochester football program from 1969/70 through the 1972/73 school year. In his four years, Rochester won a Northern Lakes Conference Championship and had an overall record of 33 wins against just 7 losses.

During his football career, Jim scored a state record 506 points while rushing for another state record 5,273 yards. In the 1971 season, Jim scored a state leading 242 points in the ten game season. Those totals broke the record on 218 points that had been set by

Dave Foellinger in 1969. In his senior season at RHS, Jim led the state in scoring for a second straight season with 182 points. Jim was honored as a first team All Northern Lakes Conference running back during his junior and senior seasons. He also received All State honors by both the AP and UPI during his junior and senior seasons. Prior to his senior year at Rochester, Jim was honored by Parade Magazine as an All American running back. For all of Jim's statistics and all of the honors that were bestowed upon him during his high school career at Rochester, the most phenomenal statistic was that Jim carried the football 791 yards and fumbled only ONE time.

Jim signed a scholarship to play football at Purdue University. Jim did not finish at Purdue. He returned to his hometown and married the former Barb Arnett. Barb and Jim have three sons, who have all carried on the Swank name as members of the Zebra football program.

Jim is currently the head maintenance engineer and assistant football coach in the Rochester School Corporation. Jim was inducted as a member of the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in July, 2001.

## *Garry Daniels, Class of 1938*



Garry Daniels was one of the first great distance runners to compete for Rochester High School. After his sophomore year at Plymouth, the Daniels family moved to Rochester and he began his Zebra career under legendary coach Clyde Lyle.

As a Zebra track athlete, Garry participated in the 1 mile relay, the ½ mile relay, the 440 yard run, and the 880 yard run. At one time, Garry and his teammates held records for all of those events. In 1937, as a junior, Garry represented RHS at the state track meet and won the 880 yard run. He went on to qualify for the 1938 state meet during his senior season, but was unable to compete due to illness. Garry's 880 yard record was broken by fellow inductee, Jerry Freyberg. Although the high school

yearbooks did not recognize an "official" Cross Country team, it was generally considered a good conditioner for the high school basketball players and Garry loved the distance.

It was that love for distance running that prompted Garry to turn down a full scholarship at Notre Dame in order to accept a partial scholarship to attend Indiana University. I.U.'s coach was the legendary coach, Earl "Billy" Hayes. As a Hoosier, Garry ran with Olympians Fred Wilt, Campbell Kane, and Don Lash. Their cross country and track teams were Big Ten champs in 1940 and the Cross Country team finished as NCAA National Champions. After two years of competing at I.U., Garry chose to enlist in the service during the Second World War and he served as a flight instructor in the Army Air Corp throughout the war.

Garry passed away in August of 2000. He is survived by his wife, Zanna Davisson Daniels who still lives on Lake Manitou and by three children, Debra Dyer, Denise Johnston, and Dr. Dan Daniels (who was also a Hall of Fame nominee).

## *Alisha Ewing, Class of 2000*



Alisha Ewing ended her high school athletic career in a position that every student-athlete dreams about – on the top step of the podium at the State Championships. When Alisha went over the high jump bar at 5'8", she became the first girl in the history of RHS to win a track state title.

While the state championship was the crown on her career at RHS, it must be noted that Alisha was a phenomenal athlete that had a remarkable career as a Zebra. She earned 3 varsity awards in volleyball under Coach Katie Felke, 4 varsity awards in basketball under Coach Scott Mills, and 4 varsity awards in track under Coaches Clint Shoultz and Brad Smith. Alisha was an all conference athlete in volleyball and led her team to Sectional Championships in 1998, 1999, and 2000. In basketball,

Alisha led her team to a pair of T.R.C. and IHSAA Sectional championships and was recognized as a team captain, the outstanding defensive player, and the leading rebounder. As a track athlete, Alisha made two trips to the state finals, was named as the Outstanding Female Athlete at the Oak Hill Relays, was a two time TRC champ in the high jump, and is still the recorder holder at RHS in that event.

Alisha attended Bethel College in Mishawaka where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sports Management. While at Bethel, she was an NAIA All-American in the high jump and an all MCC performer in track. In volleyball at Bethel, she helped lead her teammates to three MCC championships. Alisha led the squad in kills, in blocks and in aces per game and was named All MCC in volleyball for her efforts.

Upon graduation from Bethel, Alisha served as an assistant coach at Trevecca Nazarene University for three years. Currently, she is employed as the Director of Volleyball Operations at the University of Notre Dame. She and her daughter, Olivia Grace, live in Mishawaka.

## *Jerry Freyberg, Class of 1976*



During his career at RHS, a local Sentinel sportswriter noted that Jerry Freyberg had logged more than 5,000 miles of running. That work ethic, determination, and will to become the best led to his nomination and induction into the RHS Hall of Fame.

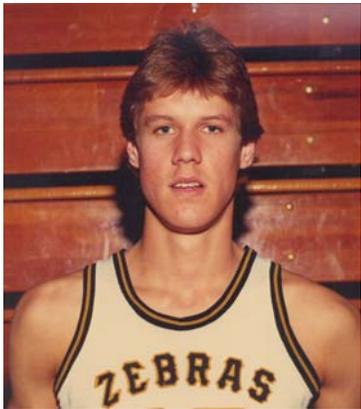
Under coaches Tom Spurgeon and Dennis Dwiggin, Jerry became one of the best distance runners in Zebra history leading his teams throughout the 1972 to 1976 seasons. He earned 8 varsity letters as a runner at RHS. His senior year in Cross Country, Jerry finished his regular season cross country schedule undefeated and he set a new NLC record at the Plymouth Country Club course. He later became the first RHS athlete to qualify for the state cross country meet and the next weekend, he placed sixth at the state meet.

As a track athlete, Jerry was the most valuable runner for three seasons. He held records in the 880 yard run, the mile run, and the two mile run. In his senior year, Jerry qualified for the state meet in the two mile run but finished out of the "money" after being knocked down on lap number four. With a bloody knee from the spill, Jerry got up finished the race and his career at RHS.

Jerry attended Southwestern Michigan College on a cross country scholar; one of the best distance running programs in the nation. For his two years at SMC, Jerry was one of the top runners in every meet. As a freshmen, he finished 31<sup>st</sup> out of over 200 runners in the National Junior College championship meet. As a sophomore, Jerry earned All American honors as he finished 20<sup>th</sup> in the field of 233 runners. Jerry finished his collegiate career at Central Washington University.

Currently, Jerry and his family live in Dothan, Alabama where he works as the Executive Director of the Alabama-Florida Council for the Boy Scouts of America. He and his wife, Tammy, have two sons Brad and Mark.

## *Aaron Hoover, Class of 1982*



The 1981-82 Rochester High School basketball campaign saw senior standout, Aaron Hoover, vault himself in the annals of Zebra Sports history, as he became the all-time boys career scoring leader with 1132 points in three seasons of varsity action. Zebra Hall of Fame Athletic Director, Bill Schroer dubbed Aaron as “Mr. Soft Touch” in the book, Z-Roots.

As a basketball player at Rochester under the tutelage of Hall of Fame coach, Galen Smith, and Rick Greene, the 6’5” forward put together a remarkable three years. During his career, he led the Zebras to two winning seasons and was the model of consistency. His career achievements include Captain (1982), Most Valuable Player

(1982), all time career scoring record, all time career field goal percentage, the most field goals in a career, the team’s leading rebounder (1981, 1982), and selections to the All Northern Lakes Conference team, the All-Loganland Area team, the All South Bend Area team, and the All Holiday Tourney team.

While at Rochester High School, Aaron participated year round as an athlete. Besides his favorite sport of basketball, in the fall, he played singles on the tennis team and helped Coach Charlie Rathburn’s squad to back to back Sectional tennis titles. Aaron spent his springs out on the baseball diamond at RHS as a pitcher and first baseman under Coach Rick Greene.

Upon graduation from RHS, Aaron attended Modesto Junior College in California where he earned Most Valuable Player and All Conference honors on the basketball team. He finished his collegiate career as a Butler Bulldog.

Aaron and his wife, Marla, live in McCordsville, Indiana. They have three children, Gavin, Reese, and Elizabeth.

## *Coach Galen Smith*



With over 230 career wins, Galen Smith will go down as one of the most successful basketball coaches in Rochester High School history. Galen Smith played three sports under the guidance of Hall of Fame Coach Bob Macy at Chili HS. He continued his education and playing career at Western New Mexico University.

Galen’s coaching career started at Clayton High School, then to Chili, along with two 4 year stints at Darlington and Oak Hill. In those first 4 coaching stops, Galen managed to win 130 games and 8 tourney or conference championships. At Oak Hill, Galen led the Golden Eagles to a Sectional and Regional title and was named Grant County Coach of the Year in 1970-71.

Galen came to Rochester in the 1972/73 school year and remained as the head coach of the Zebras until the 1979/80 school year. At Rochester, Galen’s teams won 106 games that included 2 Holiday tournaments, 3 Northern Lake Conference championships, and 2 IHSAA Sectional titles. In 1973-74, Galen’s team put together a perfect 20-0 season that included a Holiday tourney and NLC championship. His squad was upset in the Sectional to complete the best overall record in RHS history at 21-1. Galen’s 1974/75 team and 1978/79 team were both crowned NLC champions and went on to win Sectional titles for the Zebras.

After the 1979/80 season, Galen stepped down as the head coach of the Zebras. However, he continued to teach at RHS, officiate basketball, start track and cross country meets, coach at every level, and help with the FCA. He is a true servant to our students and community.

Galen still lives in Rochester with his wife, Joyce. They have two sons, Kerry and Greg and a daughter, Susan Smith Halterman.

## *Parke & Fran Baxter*

---



Parke and Fran Baxter were nominated as a couple who have spent much of their lives in support of Rochester High School student-athletes and the athletic department. Parke graduated from Purdue University from the pharmaceutical school in 1950. Fran graduated from Manchester College in 1949 with a degree in secondary education. In Rochester, Parke owned and operated Baxter Drugs for many years, while Fran taught and coached at the middle school.

Besides Fran's involvement as the coach for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade Girls Basketball at Rochester Middle School, Parke and Fran have always been around to help kids in Rochester. In 1969, with the help of the late Clarence Martens and Lloyd

Adley, Parke provided financial support for the Baxter's Beauties girl's softball team. They helped with uniforms, equipment, and the trips to the state and national tourneys for the team.

In 1965, the Baxter's accompanied Coach Ken Pennington and the first group of RHS boys to Fellowship of Christian Athlete's camp. Over the years, Fran and Parke have attended many FCA camps and weekend retreats as well as providing financial support. Fran was the first sponsor for the girls FCA huddle and was instrumental in Laura Newcomb and Susie Bair winning 1977 FCA National Girls Athlete of the Year Award.

Over the years, the Baxter's have helped in many ways. Most recently an 8<sup>th</sup> lane was added to the track at Barnhart Field and an irrigation system was added to the soccer fields at Blacketer Sports complex thanks to the generous support of Parke and Fran. However, the most important contribution is the support that they have given to thousands of RHS athletes as lifetime season ticket holders and loyal Zebra fans in the stands!