

WPIAL HALL OF FAME 2008 CLASS

ATHLETES

SWIN CASH MCKEESPORT

Cash is known for her great basketball talent, but many people don't realize she also won a WPIAL track championship in hurdles as a senior in 1998. That was the only year she ran track. In basketball, she had a superb career, scoring 2,678 points and grabbing 1,782 rebounds. Her performance in the WPIAL championship game as a senior was unforgettable as she had 40 points, 21 rebounds and 10 blocked shots. She had a golden career, becoming one of only six women to have won an NCAA title (University of Connecticut), Olympic gold medal (2004) and WNBA championship (two with the Detroit Shock). She was a two-time Post-Gazette Athlete of the Year.

MICHELLE CHOW GATEWAY

One of the greatest swimmers in WPIAL history. Won eight PIAA individual gold medals, the most a swimmer could win in a career. Also won seven WPIAL championships and led Gateway to the 1985 state championship. Was Post-Gazette Athlete of the Year in 1986 and went on to swim at Texas A & M.

DICK GROAT SWISSVALE HIGH SCHOOL

One of the best athletes to ever come out of the WPIAL. Was a three-sport star at Swissvale (basketball, baseball and volleyball). Set a school record with 37 points in a basketball game and led WPIAL basketball in scoring in 1948. Went on to a fabulous basketball career at Duke in the 1950s, leading the nation in scoring as a senior with a 26-point average. Also had his number retired. Played one year in the NBA and then nine seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates, winning the National League batting title in 1960, and also a World Series title that year.

DON HENNON WAMPUM

This is all you need to know about Hennon's basketball talent: In 1958, Hennon, who played at Pitt, was a first-team AP and UPI All-American. The other four players on the team were Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, Elgin Baylor and Guy Rodgers. At Wampum, he played for his father (Butler Hennon) from 1951-55 and scored 2,376 career points, a WPIAL record that stood for 38 years. His 1,841 career points at Pitt is still No. 4 on the Panthers' all-time list. He passed up the NBA to become a doctor.

RON "PO" JAMES NEW BRIGHTON HIGH SCHOOL

One of the greatest running backs in WPIAL history. As a senior in 1967, he scored 200 points, which stood as the WPIAL record for the next 22 years. He went on to play at New Mexico State, where he is still the school's second all-time leading rusher with 3,885 yards. He also played four seasons with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

**COLLEEN ROSENSTEEL
GREENSBURG CENTRAL CATHOLIC**

A 1985 graduate, she won seven PIAA track and field championships in her career, the most of any WPIAL athlete ever. The titles came in discus and shot put, and she held the national high school record in the discus at one time. She went on to compete at the University of Florida, and showed more athletic ability years later, making the U.S. Olympic judo team in 2000. Rosensteel also was a four-year starter in basketball and a member of four section championship teams at Greensburg Central.

**NORM VAN LIER
MIDLAND**

One of the best point guards to ever play basketball in the WPIAL, Van Lier was one of the stars of the famous Midland 1965 team that went 28-0 and won a state championship. Van Lier and Simmie Hill helped make Midland one of the greatest teams in Pennsylvania history. Van Lier was the master playmaker and went on to play at St. Francis, Pa., and then in the NBA from 1969-79. His best years were with the Chicago Bulls when he made the All-Star Game three times and led the NBA in assists in the 1970-71 seasons. His 5,217 career assists is still among the top 40 in NBA history.

**CANDY YOUNG
BEAVER FALLS**

A WPIAL and PIAA champion in track, Young made the 1980 U.S. Olympic team in hurdles. It was the same year she graduated from high school. But the U.S. boycotted the Olympics that year. She also was one of the top sprinters in WPIAL history. At one time she held the world indoor record in the 55-meter hurdles and tied the world record in the 60-meter hurdles. She was a four-time NCAA champion at Fairleigh Dickinson.

COACHES

**CHUCK KLAUSING
BRADDOCK FOOTBALL**

The only coach in WPIAL football history to win six WPIAL championships in a row (1954-59). Klausning's teams at Braddock also had a 56-game unbeaten streak, longest in WPIAL history and second-longest in state history. He also coached Pitcairn High and went on to become head coach at Carnegie Mellon and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He also was an assistant at Rutgers, Army, West Virginia and Pitt.

**ED MCCLUSKEY
FARRELL BOYS BASKETBALL**

The John Wooden of WPIAL basketball coaches. McCluskey coached Farrell from 1949-77 and won 11 WPIAL championships, the most in league history. He also won seven PIAA titles, more than any coach in Pennsylvania boys' history. McCluskey sent numerous players to Division I colleges and a few to the NBA. His record from 1949-77 was 698-185.

**SHERON WATSON
NORWIN GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

Watson coached Norwin for 21 seasons (1973-93), and it was an event when her team did NOT win a WPIAL title. Watson won 15 WPIAL girls volleyball championships, including 13 in a row at one point. She also won 12 state championships. When she retired after the 1993 season, only one high school (Safford, Ariz.) in the country had won more state titles.

TEAMS

DONORA FOOTBALL 1945

Considered one of the greatest football teams in WPIAL history. In the 1984 Pittsburgh Press, readers voted this team the best in WPIAL history. Donora, now part of the Ringgold district, gave up only 13 points all year, one on a fumble recovery return, and won a WPIAL title. Nine players from this team went on to play at Pitt and another, running back Deacon "Dan" Towler, played in the NFL.

AMBRIDGE BASKETBALL 1967

How good was this team? Three players went on to major Division I colleges – Dick DeVenizio to Duke, Dennis Wuycik to North Carolina and Frank Kaufman to Purdue. DeVenizio's father, Chuck, was the coach. Ambridge finished 27-0 and won the state title with a 93-61 victory. Ambridge won its games by an average of 25 points, and postseason games by an average of 20 points.

SHALER BASEBALL 1980

It's big when a WPIAL baseball team has a player taken in the first 10 rounds of the major league draft. This team had two players taken in the top nine rounds in 1980 – catcher Doug Maggio and pitcher Wayne Schuckert. Three other players from this team were drafted out of college, a few others played at Division I colleges and another (Ken Karcher) went on to play in the NFL. The team, coached by legendary Jerry Matulevic, finished the season on a 25-game winning streak and won WPIAL and PIAA titles. The Titans won its three WPIAL playoff games by a combined score of 26-1, and five PIAA games by a combined total of 42-15.

OFFICIAL

CLIFF FAIR

Fair was a basketball and football official on the high school and big-time college level for more than 40 years. He went on to become the first WPIAL Quad-A supervisor of football officials and the assigning secretary of the West Penn Basketball Officials Association.

CONTRIBUTOR

LARRY HANLEY

Hanley served the League in every possible way as a steering committee member, Board of Control member, officer, and Executive Director. He was a member of the board for 16 years of which he was vice-president for 6 years and president for 6 years. In 1996, he was appointed by the Board as the executive director, a position he held until retiring in 2006.