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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....

OHSBCA ANNOUNCES HALL OF FAME FOR 2014

The Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association (OHSBCA) is proud to announce the coaches and the date for the Hall of Fame Induction of the Class of 2014. The four high school coaches being inducted are: Gene Ammirante of Bellaire High School, Jim Osborne of Gallia Academy, Jim Robinson of Maumee High School and Jim Staley of Centerville High School. The Induction Ceremony of the 28th Class will take place at the Columbus Airport Marriott at 1375 N Cassady Ave in Columbus, OH on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 5:30 PM.

Tickets may be obtained by calling Paul Wayne, Hall of Fame Director, at 419-264-2547 or pwayne@holgateschools.org. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Below are the biographies of each of the inductees.

“Thanks” for your continuous support of the OHSBCA.

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Gene Ammirante

Gene Ammirante (Wheeling Central Catholic High School, Class of 1969). When you think of Ammirante, you think of two things - passion and success. During his 30 year career as head boys' basketball coach at Bellaire High, "Coach A" displayed plenty of the former and achieved plenty of the latter. Gene is the son of Italian immigrants, Josephine Ammirante (93) and the late Jerry Ammirante. Gene has been married to Pam (Sowers) for 38 years and have two children, Jerry (35) and wife Katie Bliss and Lindsay (28) and one grandson Milano.

Ammirante began his coaching career in 1976 as an assistant to Mark Matz at Bellaire before beginning a successful run as head coach of the Big Reds.

He compiled an impressive 471-205 career record at Bellaire, the all-time best coaching record in boys' basketball at the school. That included a 189-41 mark during the 1900s, an average of 19 wins per season during that 10 year span.

Bellaire High achieved Top 20 rankings in Ohio 15 times under Ammirante; won 14 Ohio Valley Athletic Conference championships; 14 sectional crowns, six district titles and one regional championship as Bellaire earned its first ever trip to the OHSAA Division III State Tournament "Final Four" in 2003-04, tying the school record for wins (22) before losing to Versailles in double-overtime in the semifinals.

His teams posted two undefeated regular seasons, going 20-0 in 1993-94 and 2005-06, seven 20-win seasons and two 19-1 records; and the 2005-06 team broke the school record with 23 victories.

Among Ammirante's numerous awards were "Coach of the Year" for Ohio Division II, the Eastern District and District 12 as well as the OVAC overall "Coach of the Year" in 2003-04; and the Bob Arnzen Award for 20 consecutive years at the same school (1996). He was also selected to coach the south squad in the annual Ohio North-South All-Star Game in Columbus in 1997.

He served as Game Director for the Samuel A. Mumley OVAC All-Star Basketball Classic on two different occasions and is still active on the committee; founded and directed the OVAC Basketball Clinic for six years which brought nationally acclaimed clinicians such as the late Skip Prosser-Wake Forrest; Bob Huggins-WVU; John Beilein-Michigan; Jim O'Brien-Former NBA Coach; Doug Wojcik of College of Charleston; John Chaney-Former Temple Coach. Coach A also founded a \$1500 Scholarship annually awarded to the son or daughter of an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Basketball Coach; is director of the Wheeling Recreation Department's Youth Basketball Program; and started the annual Saturday Morning Fundamental Feeder Program and Basketball Camp at Bellaire. He received the OVAC's Earl Haberfield Boys' Basketball Coaches Award in 2012. He also authored three articles in the Nationally Syndicated Scholastic Coach Magazine.

Ammirante received his bachelor's degree from West Liberty State College in 1973 and his master's from West Virginia University in 1976. Coach A says "I have been fortunate to have stayed at one school - Bellaire High School - for my entire 35 year career. The greatest thrill of my career was coaching my son Jerry and nephew J.R. Battista (present Bellaire boys basketball coach) and having them both serve as assistant coaches. There were more wins than losses but you cannot measure a basketball coach solely with W's and L's. The good Lord blessed me with more laughs than heartaches, more cheers than boos, and many friends and memories that will entertain me as long as my mind can re-run them. I am proud of the fact that I was fortunate to have coached a lot of wonderful players who brought about the memories, the wins and the championships. I am proud of it but I also know that without those players it wouldn't have happened.

Jim Osborne

Jim Osborne came to Gallipolis as a graduate of Wittenberg University in 1969-70. Jim had served as assistant coach at Wittenberg and became the head basketball at Gallia Academy for the next 41 years. When Jim retired from coaching at Gallia Academy his overall record was 529 wins and 362 losses. During his coaching career he won 11 SEOAL titles and finished second in league play nine times.

Osborne's Blue Devil cagers have finished in the SEOAL's second division six times during the past 41 years. Under Osborne, GAHS has won 14 sectionals, two district tournament crowns, and appeared in the regionals twice. The Blue Devils have been district runner-up four times and a district semifinalist 21 times. He has been named SEOAL and district basketball coach of the year 12 times.

Besides coaching basketball, Osborne has spent 25 years as a tennis coach with over 200 wins, 11 years as a baseball coach, recording more than 100 wins, coached a Blue Devil golf team in the state golf tournament, and was an assistant coach of the track and field team.

During his 42 years of teaching with 40 years teaching at GAHS, Osborne has taught physical education, health, general science and driver's education. He was also an Adjunct Teacher at Rio Grande University. Known around southern Ohio as "Coach Oz" or "The Wizard" Osborne has coached in the Ohio North-South, Ohio-Kentucky and Ohio-West Virginia All-Star games. Osborne has been a sought-after speaker on both basketball and his philosophy of life.

A two-sport MVP (basketball and baseball) and an Athletic Hall of Fame member of both Geneva High School and Wittenberg University, he led his American Legion team (Ashtabula Rubber) to a state championship as a pitcher and Wittenberg University to a Division II regional title.

In 2003, he was recipient of the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Award. He also won the prestigious OHSBCA Paul Walker Award in 2009.

He has received coaching longevity awards in both basketball and tennis. Osborne has served as president of the District 13 Basketball Coaches Association since 1988. Osborne is also a charter member of the GAHS Athletic Hall of Fame committee. Jim is also a member of the Hall of Fame at Gallia Academy and Ashtabula County Hall of Fame.

Osborne and his wife Jennifer reside in Gallipolis, Ohio. They have two grown children, Tige Osborne and Tia (Jason) Vasquez and three grandchildren, Caden, Keely and Reese.

Jim Robinson

Jim grew up in Toledo in an area called Point Place. He attended Toledo Public Schools grade one through twelve. He was a three-sport athlete at Woodward High School, playing football, basketball, and baseball earning seven varsity letters. In addition to his athletic involvement, Jim was a four-year member of the Student Council and Senior Class Officer. He is a member of the Woodward High School Hall of Fame, and also a member of the Toledo City League Hall of Fame. After high school graduation in 1961, he earned a Bachelor of Education Degree from Ohio State University in 1966, and a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Toledo in 1970. In 1980 he was initiated into Phi Delta Kappa International. Over his long career, he was a teacher, an assistant principal, a principal, a city recreation director, a coach of many sports (39 years as a basketball coach) and a college assistant coach!

Coach Robinson's first teaching and coaching assignment (while at OSU) was at the Ohio State School for the Deaf in Columbus using sign language to communicate with his team. At the age of 22, he was named the head basketball coach at Port Clinton High School in 1966. In 1971, he made his way to Cincinnati Western Hills for two years, and then returned to Toledo for three seasons at St. Francis DeSales. From there he traveled south to Lima Senior High for three seasons and the north again to Toledo Libbey. In April of 1980 Jim accepted an assistant coaching position at University of Akron. In 1983 he returned to the high school level at Maumee High School near Toledo. Coach then retired after fourteen years at Maumee. One year later, he came out of retirement to coach one season at Millbury Lake High School and then returned to Maumee for seven more seasons. A second retirement lasted only two years and Jim took over at Maumee Valley Country Day for four seasons, finishing his final year at 22-2 and a regional appearance.

Jim is one of two coaches to be named Toledo Blade Coach of the Year twice. His teams won 15 league titles and he received over 20 Coach of the Year awards. He coached in 12 District All-Star games and led Ohio twice in the Ohio-Indiana Border war games. In April of 2013 he coached in the Division 3 & 4 North-South game in Columbus. Coach is also a member of the District 7 Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He finished his coaching career at 531 varsity basketball victories and over 700 wins in all sports combined!

In 1965 Jim married Carol Culp. Carol is a 1961 Toledo DeVilbiss High School and a 1965 Ohio State graduate. She is a former OSU cheerleader, has a Master's Degree from the University of Toledo and taught in Ohio for 46 years! She and Jim have three children and nine grandchildren. They enjoy time at their cottage in Northern Michigan and golf at Heatherdowns Country Club in Toledo. Jim is grateful to his family and all of the wonderful kids who touched his life. When informed of his selection into the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, he was humbled and proud to have been a part of Ohio basketball history both as a player and a coach.

Jim Staley

Jim Staley is a 1969 graduate of Chaminade High School where he played football and baseball. He graduated from The Ohio State University in 1974 and was a four year varsity baseball player.

He began his coaching career at Wilmington High School in 1974 serving 2 years as freshman basketball coach and 5 years as varsity basketball coach. He also coached football for 2 years and varsity baseball for 5 years. His basketball teams at Wilmington compiled a record of 66 wins and 33 losses along with 2 undefeated League Championships.

Jim became head basketball coach at Trotwood-Madison High School in 1981 where he was varsity basketball coach for ten years. He recorded a record of 148 wins and 79 losses. His teams won 5 league championships, 5 sectional championships and one district championship. Jim also coached varsity softball for two seasons.

In 1991 Jim took on the challenge of building a basketball program at Centerville High School. Centerville had dominated the Dayton area in nearly every sport with the exception of basketball. From 1956 until 1991 Centerville Basketball had a record of 278 wins and 422 losses. The Elks had never won a league or sectional title and had only 7 winning seasons during the previous 35 years. Jim's Centerville teams over the next 21 years won 326 games and had 158 losses. They won 9 sectional titles, 4 district titles and were regional finalists on 2 occasions. His teams also won 6 league titles including the school's first. The Elks were in the district finals 8 straight years and 9 times in 10 years.

Jim was twice named District 15 Coach of the Year, AP Southwest Ohio Coach of the Year in 1988 and Ohio Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2008. He was the recipient of the Agonis Club Sportsmanship, Integrity, Character and Achievement Award in 2005. He received the Bob Arnzen Award in 2012 and was a member of the inaugural class of the Ohio Basketball Hall of Honor in 2011. He coached the North-South All-Star Game in 2003 and the Ohio-Kentucky All-Star Game in 2002. Jim also won 13 League Coach of the Year Awards. His 540 wins rank third in Southwest Ohio history behind Joe Petrocelli and Paul Walker.

Jim was a 35 year member of District 15 and served as president for two years and District 15 director for seven years.

Jim and his wife Susie have four children: Jayme 35, Jill 32, Jimmy 22 and Erin 17. He also has two grandchildren: Chloe 10 and Eric 8.

Jim's basketball philosophy started with a commitment to develop your own talent to the fullest. His teams were built on defense, shot selection and free throw shooting. He felt you could negate speed with strength, talent with preparation and build a basketball tradition built on out working your opponent.