

December 13, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.....

OHSBCA ANNOUNCES HALL OF FAME FOR 2016

The Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association (OHSBCA) is proud to announce the coaches and the dates for the Hall of Fame Induction of the Class of 2016. The four high school coaches being inducted are: Ron Moschella (Boardman/Columbiana), Norm Persin (Chesapeake/Oak Hill), Bob Von Kaenel (Tuscarawas Valley/Dover) and Steve Williman of Liberty Benton. The Induction Ceremony for the 30th Class will be conducted at the Columbus Airport Marriott at 1375 Cassady Avenue, Columbus, Ohio on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

Tickets may be obtained by calling Hall of Fame Director Paul Wayne at 419-261-2547 or by email at wayno14@embarqmail.com. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Below are the biographies of each of the inductees.

Thanks for you continuous support of the OHSBCA.

Larry Wilson
Public Relations Director
Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association
1920 W Steinbeck Dr
Anthem, AZ 85086-1832

Home: 623-374-7577
Cell: 623-670-4924

Email: wilson120@cox.net

BOB VON KAENEL – TUSCARAWAS VALLEY/DOVER HIGH SCHOOL

Bobby Von Kaenel is the son of Bob and Madge Von Kaenel who were instrumental in his interest in becoming a coach. At the age of 10, Bobby was introduced to the State Basketball Tournament. His parents took his brother Paul and him to the tournament EVERY year where his love for basketball began. Coach Von Kaenel is a 1973 graduate of Strasburg High School and was a 4-sport athlete lettering in football, basketball, baseball, and track. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Education from Alderson-Broaddus College in 1977 and currently serves as Health, Physical Education, and Careers Teacher at Dover High School.

Bobby and his wife of 38 years, Beth, are the parents of two children. Matthew is a Dover Middle School teacher, who is the head freshman football coach and assistant varsity basketball coach at Dover as well. Matt and his wife, Lia, an accountant at Rea & Associates, have two children, 5 year old son Cohen and 2 year old daughter Elle. Bobby's younger son, Marcus, is the Director of Sales for Almost Family Inc., and his wife, Cami, is a teacher in the Southwestern City School District. They have an 8 year old son, Collin, and another child on the way. They reside in Grove City, Ohio. Bobby and his wife are members of First Christian Church and are involved in a special prayer group along with other activities.

In addition to his basketball coaching success, Coach Von Kaenel is also a registered OHSAA Football Official and has worked 9 State Championships and 14 state semi-final games. In 2009, Bobby was announced as the Alumni Achievement Award Winner at Alderson-Broaddus University for all of his coaching accomplishments.

Bobby began his career at Strasburg in 1978 when he coached the Girls reserve team and the Boys 7th grade team in the same year. He was then hired at Tuscarawas Valley where he served 11 years as the head basketball coach, 10 years as head girls track coach, and 4 years as assistant football coach. During his tenure, he led his basketball team to a pair of Senate League Titles and a Division III State Runner-Up finish in 1988. His girls track teams claimed 7 District Titles while he was at the helm.

Coach Von Kaenel began his 36th season as a head basketball coach this past November. It is his 25th year at Dover where he has compiled a record of 438-120 going into this season. Since coaching at Dover, the Tornadoes have been East Central Ohio League Champions 12 times and Sectional Champions in 14 seasons. In 1998, he directed the Tornadoes to a 24-3 season and a Division II State Runner-Up campaign. In 2004, the (22-4) Tornadoes returned to the FINAL FOUR, losing to eventual state champion, Ottawa-Glandorf in the semi-finals. His teams also claimed District Titles in 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2014 and 2015. His Dover teams have amassed 24 consecutive winning seasons, and 11 seasons of more than 20 victories.

His overall coaching record approaching the 2015-16 year was 580-223, and his total victories make him the all-time winningest coach in the history of Tuscarawas County Basketball. His teams are recognized as always being extremely detailed, fundamentally sound, and very stingy defensively. Since 1995, the Tornadoes have allowed less than 48 points a game every season, with a record low of 38.1 points per game in 2008.

Bobby was honored as the AP Coach of the Year in Ohio in 1988, 1995, and 1997. At the local level, Coach was selected as Conference Coach of the Year 14 times, and District 5 Coach of the Year 12 times. He has coached in the District 5 East-West All-Star Games, Ohio North-South All-Star Game, Ohio-West Virginia Classic, Wendy's 4-State Classic, and the Ohio-Kentucky All-Star Game. In 2005, he was honored as OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award Winner for Boys Basketball in the State of Ohio. In that same year, he was also selected by the National Federation Coaches Association as the 2005 Ohio Coach of the Year and Midwest Region Coach of the year, which encompasses 10 states. In 2006, Bobby was named as the recipient of the coveted Paul Walker Award for outstanding coaching and service to the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association. Coach Von Kaenel currently serves as the Secretary of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; prior to that he was president from 1998-2000. He is also a member of the Ohio Basketball HOF Museum Board of Trustees.

NORM PERSIN – OAK HILL / CHESAPEAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Norm Persin (Warren G. Harding High School Class of 1968 and Rio Grande College graduate). He is the son of Jack and Elizabeth Persin (both deceased). Norm credits his parents with teaching him responsibility, loyalty and an old school working ethic. During his high school career, Norm credits Jack Gysegum (Basketball) and Robert Wachtel (Baseball) as the ones who guided him to push himself to be better each time he stepped on the playing field.

In 1969-1971 he played for Art Lanham at Rio Grande and then eventually took over for Art due to back surgery. Norm also coached the baseball team in 1972 to the MOC title and the label of "Coach" began. During his athletic playing days at Rio Grande, Norm received the Freshman MVP basketball award from Celtic great Bill Russell and the baseball award for highest batting average from Indians great Bob Feller.

Norm's high school coaching career began at Gallia Academy as JV coach under Hall of Fame Coach Jim Osborne. Norm then began his varsity coaching career at Oak Hill for 6 years and Wilmington for 2 years. During those years Norm won 3 conference championships.

For the next 21 years, Chesapeake High School became the home for Norm and Panther Pride began - 16 league championships (12 consecutive) and 10 district championships took place. Five times the Peake reached the Regional Championship game. In 2005 Persin Court was named in Norm's honor. In 21 years, Chesapeake won 400 games and lost 85 for a .884%. In the year 2007 Norm returned to Oak Hill to take over a program that had some down times. In his first year at the helm, the Oaks won the district championship. (First in schools history as well as the first ever in Jackson County for a boys team.) The following year the Oaks reached the Regional Championship game and in 2009 the Oak Hill Oaks made history with a State Championship victory over Kalida. In 2013 Oak Hill reached the Regional Championship again.

With an overall record of 672-188 in 38 years, Norm is currently #5 on the all time win list in Ohio. His coaching awards are maybe more impressive and include: 2009 National High School Coach of the Year, Ohio's Coach of the Year on 7 different occasions, coached in the McDonald's All American Classic in 2010 and the Jordan Classic in famous Madison Square Garden in 2007, and received the Paul Walker Award in 2001 for contributions made in the game of basketball. Norm has been inducted into three Hall of Fames: Athletic Directors, Warren G. Harding High School and Chesapeake High School.

He has served as a director for over 20 years on the OHSBCA while also helping to coordinate the Ohio-Kentucky game. In 2013 Norm coached the first ever Ohio team in the National Federation Tournament in which the Ohio Team went undefeated. He has also coached in the North-South Game, Ohio-West Virginia Game and the Wendy's Classic. Norm currently works many Nike Elite events and has spoken at several state clinics.

Success cannot happen without great people in the program. Coach Persin has been blessed with dedicated players and loyal assistant coaches that have made major contributions to greatness. His greatest fans are his family. His son Jimmy and his wife Nicole; daughter Haley and husband Mark along with 4 tremendous grandchildren Marley, Pierce, Jude and Miles keep his spirits up and help keep Norm young. Other family members include his brother Dennis and sister Diane, both residing in North Carolina and Florida.

Norm continues to teach social studies (year 42) at Oak Hill along with serving as Athletic Director and Boys Basketball Coach. In 2017 Norm will be inducted into the Ohio Hall of Fame joining greats like Bob Knight and Jerry Lucas.

RON MOSCHELLA – BOARDMAN / COLUMBIANA HIGH SCHOOL

Ron Moschella has been called many things during a stellar four decade coaching career. Born March 2, 1950, Coach "Mosch" has been referred to as animated, guarded, confrontational, loud, pointed, dedicated and driven. The two references to which all agree, however, is that Ron Moschella is a success and a winner because he never compromised his principles in the classroom or on the field of play.

A 1968 graduate of Ursuline High School, he is a 1972 graduate of Kent State University where he earned his BS.Ed. in Business and Physical Education and later earned his MS Ed. in Administration from Youngstown State University (1980). He started his teaching/coaching career in the Howland School System where he taught Marketing Education and served as Tigers golf coach for seven years, baseball coach for three years and tennis coach for two years.

He moved to Boardman High School in 1978 where he taught Marketing Education, Business Law and Physical Education. He became head coach of the Girls' Basketball program in 1981, a post that he held for 31 years. He led the Lady Spartans to new heights with 19 Steel Valley Conference Titles and two Federal League crowns.

The 2002 UPI and AP Coach of the Year, he is a 21-time recipient of the Mahoning Valley Coaches Association Coach of the Year award, a four-time recipient (1986, 1992, 1995 and 2002) of NEO Coach of the Year laurels and the 2001 Ohio High School Basketball Association Coach of the Year honor as well. He was selected to coach in the 1987 Ohio North-South All-Star game, his teams advanced to District play in 21 seasons, winning 14 District titles and finishing as runners-up on seven other occasions.

The Lady Spartans were Regional finalists in 1986, 1996, 2001 and were Regional semi-finalists on 10 separate occasions. His teams advanced to the State Final Four twice in 2005 and 2008. He was also honored by the OHSBCA for his 500th victory in 2007 and again 2013 for his 600th win.

Moschella is known for his demand of excellence from his players, not only on the court, but also in the classroom and was honored by the The Crier, the Boardman High School yearbook, with its dedication to him in 1997. Then, in 2000, he was named the Boardman High School Teacher of the Year. Ron was inducted into the Curbstone Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010 and the Boardman High School Hall of Fame in 2013.

Following his retirement from Boardman, he was offered the opportunity to coach Girls' Basketball at Columbiana High School in Columbiana, Ohio. After two consecutive winning seasons with the girls, Moschella was offered the boys position as well. Both teams finished the 2014-15 season with winning records. He enters his fourth season with Columbiana this year, coaching both the boys and girls teams. To date, Moschella has attained a record of 637-172 in Girls Basketball and 14—10 in Boys, which brings him to an overall record of 651-182.

Ron and his wife Judy reside in Boardman and have three daughters: Christine (Brian Terlesky), Nadine (Nick Colla) and Jolene (Don Ross), who all played successfully for their father at Boardman and each has been inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame. Ron and Judy are proud grandparents of ten grandchildren: Brian, Tyler, Emma, Jimmy, Jenna, Nicholas, Lia, Tessa, Gianna and Lena.

STEVE WILLIMAN – LIBERTY BENTON HIGH SCHOOL

Steve is a 1975 graduate of Old Fort High School where he played basketball for legendary OHSBCA Hall of Fame coach Steve Smith. He received degrees from Owens Community College in 1978 and Findlay College in 1980.

His coaching career began at Liberty Benton High School where he was an assistant coach in 1978 and 1979. Coach Willman's first varsity coaching position was held at Old Fort High School from 1980-1983. He was a graduate assistant at Bowling Green State University during the 1984 season under head coach John Weinert and coached at Galion High School from 1984-1986. He returned to Liberty Benton in 1987 where he retired in 2014.

In 33 years as a head basketball coach, Williman has compiled a record of 551-208. Included in this record are fifteen 20-win seasons, 16 league titles, 24 Sectional (20 consecutive), 9 District, 1 State Runner- up in 2007 and a State Championship in 1995. They were AP Poll Champions in 2007, 2008, 2010 and set a Blanchard Valley Conference record with 42 consecutive league wins.

Steve has been the recipient of Coach of the Year honors in the Blanchard Valley Conference 12 times, Districts 6 and 8 four times, and AP Division 3 State Coach of the Year in 2007. He was also the National Federation Coaches Association Ohio Coach of the year in 2000 and served as the president and director of District 8.

Coach Williman received the Bob Arnzen Award in 2006 and was the Paul Walker Award winner in 2012. He has had the opportunity to coach in the Wendy's Classic, Ohio-Kentucky and the Ohio North-South All Star Games. He was also elected to the Hancock County Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and received the University of Findlay's Athletic Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

In addition to coaching basketball, Williman has also coached the Liberty Benton golf team for 15 years and has been fortunate to take three teams and 4 individuals to the state tournament. He has been married for 34 years to Marty and they are the proud parents of two daughters, Ashlee and Erica and son-in-law Garret.

Coach Williman has always believed that individual achievements are the result of team efforts and would like to thank his team of players, assistant coaches, administrators, community and family and is humbled, honored and thankful to be inducted into the OHSBCA Hall of Fame.