

Hightstown High to welcome 24th Hall of Fame class

By Rich Fisher, For The Trentonian

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HIGHTSTOWN >> The longest-running high school Hall of Fame event in Mercer County will take place on Friday, Nov. 3, with athletes from four decades, spanning a gap of 51 years, being recognized.

The Hightstown High Athletic Hall of Fame will honor its 24th class with an 11 a.m. luncheon at the Holiday Inn in Hightstown. The inductees will be introduced at that evening's home football game between the Rams and Ewing. Tickets at the cost of \$40 are available through Oct. 15 by calling Athletic Director Jim Peto at 609-443-7738, ext. 1156 or 1157.

This year's individual inductees are Phil Moody (Class of 1958), Michael Lanzetta (Class of '77), Mark Pescatore ('83), Tracey Radigan Sabino ('87), Dr. Vanessa Bond ('00) and Ify Onochie ('09). Also gaining entry is the 1986-87 boys' swim team.

The unique Moody was a four-letterman in an era where playing four sports was permitted. He was a 5-foot-8 basketball player who jumped center and could dunk, and he was the soccer team's goal scorer and leading scorer.

A baptized minister for the past 50 years, the Cranbury resident recorded eight shutouts in goal in his junior and senior years to lead the Rams to back-to-back state titles. He came out of the goal to score nine goals, including the game-winner in the state final, as a senior. In basketball he guarded the opposition's best player and led the team in most statistical categories.

Phil was a centerfielder on the baseball team while winning the 100, 200, 440, 880 and the mile at least one time each in track. He won the Mercer meet in 11.1 seconds as a freshman. A father of five and grandfather of eight, Moody was offered a soccer scholarship to Bowie State College, played in the Mets farm system and was invited to try out for the 1960 Olympic Team. He barely missed qualifying.

Lanzetta has sustained professional status for the past 33 years as a Class A PGA member, and is the second golfer to be inducted into the HOF. A four-time MVP for the Rams, Lanzetta won the Delaware Valley Conference interscholastic championship in 1975 and paced the Rams to an undefeated regular-season in 1977.

Since graduation, Mark has been First Assistant Professional at Cranbury, Hopewell Valley, Edgewood and Maplewood clubs, and the Assistant Professional at Crestwood, where he was the only member selected to the Wilson Squire Cup Team four times. He was the NJ Assistants PGA Match Play Champion and Player of the Year in 1992. As head pro at Madison Golf Club he won the NJ Head Professional Championship, was third in the New Jersey Open and was the NJPGA Club Professional Champion in 2006. He is currently the Head Golf Professional at General Manager at Mansfield Golf and Learning Center.

Pescatore was a three-year starter at linebacker and special teams for the Rams football team, and set several school defensive records. He was a two-year defensive captain and named the DelVal Scholar-Athlete as a senior. Mark's records include 176 career tackles, 95 in a season, 16 in a game and 91 initial hits in a season. He was a three-time All-CVC pick, two-time All-County selection and was named All Area as a senior.

Despite being actively recruited by at least six schools to play college football, Pescatore gave up football to focus on academics at Montclair, which paid off in an executive sales management position for ADP.

Radigan was co-captain and point guard on the 1986-87 girls' basketball team; the lone Group IV state champion in school history. She was also an All-CVC and All-Central Jersey field hockey player and joins sister Kerry in the Hightstown HOF. A three-year field hockey starter, Radigan led the team in goals as a junior and assists as a senior, earning All-CVC and All-Central Jersey honors. In basketball she led the Rams to two Central Jersey titles and scored 15 points in the 1987 state final.

Tracey was named All-CVC and All-County in basketball, which she continued to play as a three-year starter at Monmouth College (earning a full scholarship). Radigan lives in Rumson and is President of TS Hoops, which manages and runs high-profile girls' basketball tournaments and leagues. Her daughters, Samantha and Sydney, play Division I basketball at St. Francis (Pa.) and Lafayette, respectively.

Onochie was a three-sport athlete in soccer, winter track & field and lacrosse. In soccer, her 25 goals in a season and 57 career goals are school records. She was a Mercer 33 honoree and NJSCA All-State for three straight years. She owns the school's winter track mark in the 200 (27.8 seconds) and was a member of the record-setting indoor 4x400 team.

In lacrosse, Onochie had 50 goals and 11 assists as a senior and scored over 100 career goals. She led the team in ground balls and draw controls as a junior and senior and was first-team All-CVC and All-Area as a senior. A Rutgers graduate with a Master's Degree from Boston University, she is employed by BU as a research scientist in Neuroscience.

Bond played 11 years of field hockey, softball and basketball and graduated third in a class of 265, earning the NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete award and several other scholastic honors. A four-year field hockey player Vanessa was team MVP and first-team All-CVC and All-Central Jersey as a senior. A three-year starter in basketball she averaged 10.5 and 12.7 points her junior and senior year and was team MVP. She was a four-year starter in softball and won the Coaches Award and All-CVC honors.

With a Masters of Music in Voice Pedagogy and Performance from Penn State and PhD in Music Education from Case Western Reserve, Bond is an Assistant Professor of Music Education at the University of Hartford's Hartt School.

The 1987 swim team is the first swim team to be inducted into the HOF. The squad finished 14-2 and placed first in the Hornet Relays, George School Invitational and Mercer County Championships. The Rams fell to St. Joe's-Metuchen in the Central Jersey state finals. The season highlight was defeating perennial power

West Windsor-Plainsboro in a dual meet.

The roster included captains Glenn Feeny, John Lambros and Kirk McKay; along with Rob Brogus, Marc Lamberty, Jay Hine, David Daume, Seth Kurs, Tom Prunier, Ron Schreier, Trent Woods, Scott Fisher, Brad Shaev, Darryl Hopkins, Rob Risko, Richard Neff, Eric Gottlieb, James Martin and Jason Greenberg. Managers were Jazmine Bentley, Mary Lynn McBee and Rachel Ondrejack. Craig Wallace was the head swim coach and Don Colbert the diving coach. Feeny, Hine, Brogus and Lamberty were first-team All-CVC and All-County selections.

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