

Class of 2022 Hall of Fame Members



Class of 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees: Connie (Russell) Reichart*, Carl Besecker, Carl Texter, Jason Hendershot, Ron Sparrow, Becky (Russell) Hess* and Bradley Pensyl. * - sisters of inductee Kathy Russell, deceased

Jason Hendershot

Jason is a 2007 graduate of Pocono Mountain East High School where he was a three-year letter winner and starter in both soccer and baseball. He received the prestigious Donald Cramer Award his senior year, which is given to two student athletes who excel with character, academics, and athletics.

In his senior soccer season as a team captain, Jason had 14 goals and 13 assists and was named first team all-area as well as being named to the Pennsylvania All State soccer team. Jason was also the Pocono Record male soccer player of the year his senior year.

In baseball, Jason was a two-time all-conference infielder. During his senior season, he hit over .400 at the plate with 4 home runs, 24 RBI's and was team captain. Jason stands near the top of the school record book for hits in his career. In his junior year of baseball, he helped the team get to the District XI final game.

Kathy Russell

Kathy was a 1976 graduate of Pocono Mountain High School where she was a four-year letter winner in softball and a three-year letter winner in both basketball and field hockey. Kathy was a team captain for basketball in her junior and senior years. In basketball, she led the Centennial League in scoring and led the team in rebounds, scoring and assists during her senior year. Kathy was named to the first team Centennial League in both field hockey and basketball in her senior seasons. She was

also named to the Pocono Record's first All-Pocono team for basketball and second All-Pocono team for softball. Kathy also received team MVP honors in both field hockey and basketball. She was honored with the title of Pocono Mountain High School's top female athlete for 1975-76.

Carl Besecker

Carl was a member of the 1st graduating class at Pocono Mountain in 1962. Carl played baseball for a very successful high school baseball team. Carl loved Pocono Mountain baseball and worked very hard at it. He was the #1 pitcher for the team 3 straight years. In 1962, the team went 10-0. That year he had racked up 5 wins with 3 of them being one-hitter games. Carl had a team leading batting average of .464. Carl was a Star of the Week for the 1961-62 Pocono Record newspaper.

After high school, Carl served in the Army Reserve. He played for many years in the Pocono Mountain baseball league. He also coached his sons in Little League. Carl currently resides in East Stroudsburg, PA.

Carl Texter

Carl was the first Pocono Mountain wrestler to go undefeated (13-0-1) in regular season matches in 1971/72. That same year, he was champion of the Lehigh-Northampton league and a semi-finalist in District XI. The following year, he led the Cardinal grapplers to the championship of the Wallenpaupack Tournament with a third-round pin in the final match. He was runner-up in the L-N league and semi-finalist in District XI. In football, he was a three-year letterman, playing tackle on both offense and defense and participated in track. Carl was co-captain of the wrestling team and the football team in his senior year. He was also recognized as a scholar athlete by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

After graduation from high school in 1973, Texter participated in wrestling and rugby at Princeton University. He served as an Airborne Ranger Army officer, earned an MBA from Dartmouth College and worked in finance for 40 years before retiring to the mountains of western North Carolina.

Bradley Pensyl

Bradley was a three-year starter for the Cardinals basketball team, captaining the team his senior year. Bradley scored over 1,000 career points and was a two-time team MVP. He also was named first team All Pocono in both his junior and senior seasons, and was a member of the all-conference team in his senior year. He also excelled in the classroom, and was named the District XI scholar athlete of the year for boys basketball in his senior season.

Bradley graduated from Gettysburg College. He later received his Juris Doctor degree, summa cum laude, from Syracuse University College of Law. Today, he is a partner at the law firm Allen & Overy LLP, and, with his wife Johanna, is the proud father of three daughters, Sloane, Maeve and Blaire.

Ron Sparrow

Ron Sparrow served as a coach in the Pocono Mountain School District for nearly 30 years. Together with Head Coach Ed Watto, who recruited him to coach wrestling in addition to football, he built Pocono Mountain's wrestling program and led the Cardinals to countless team and individual championships, including the 1981 undefeated Cardinal wrestling team.

Ron was a beloved math teacher who began his coaching career as an assistant varsity football coach, before becoming the head coach of the JV team. When the district decided to launch a junior high football team, Ron was asked to spearhead that program. During that time, he recruited many students to both football and wrestling programs. He cared deeply about teaching student athletes important life skills while helping them achieve their academic and athletic goals.

Coach Sparrow graduated from Pen Argyl Area High School where he participated in football, track and baseball, and also served as senior class president. He earned his bachelor's degree in elementary education from Bloomsburg University and a master's degree in education from East Stroudsburg University.

Ron and his wife Sally, also a beloved Pocono Mountain teacher for decades, recently celebrated 55 years of marriage. They have two daughters, Stacy and Rachel, who were both student athletes at PMHS, and five grandchildren. Ron and Sally are currently retired and living in Venice, FL where Ron continues to organize golf programs in his community. However, Coach Sparrow will remain a cardinal forever.