

Friday, September 30, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

It is with Comet Pride that the Committee for the Amherst Athletic Hall of Fame announces its inaugural class. Induction weekend will be February 10th & 11th of 2017. The class will be formally introduced at the Boys Basketball game with North Olmsted on February 10th, with a formal ceremony to be held on Saturday, February 11th.

The inaugural class is made up of seven Individuals and one team. The members of the class are: Richard S. Cooley, Theresa (Feldkamp) Brannen, Sherri (Horvath) Scanlon, Amy (McKinley) Agrella, Jack Moskal, Phil Parker, Chris Russo, and the 1962 Boys Cross Country Team.

Richard S. Cooley was the Track & Field and Cross Country Coach at Steele from 1957-1981. He coached Boys Cross Country to State Championships in 1962 & 1977, and a runner up finish in 1981. He coached the Girls Cross Country Team to a State runner up finish in 1978. He coached three individuals to State Cross Country Champions: Glen Wilburn (1971) & Peter Kummant (1973/1974), and three individual Track & Field State Champions: Ken Greer in the 880 Yard Run, Tom Schoemig in the Mile in 1965, & Peter Kummant in the Two Mile Run in 1975. Mr. Cooley coached the Steele Boys Cross Country Teams to 19 Lakeland Conference Championships in 24 years, 12 Boys Track & Field Lakeland Conference Championships, and four Lakeland Girls Cross Country Championships. He was inducted into the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in 1972 and the Lorain County Track and Cross Country Hall of Fame in 2011. He was a Pole Vault Official at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Theresa (Feldkamp) Brannen was a Track & Field star that excelled in the 800m. She won back-to-back State Championships in 2000 & 2001. She was All-Ohio four times, and holds the school record with a time of 2:10.05, set at the 2001 State Meet. She was a four time Regional and District Champion and placed in the 800m Run at the Indoor and Outdoor National Track & Field Meet in 2000 & 2001, earning All American Honors in 2001. Theresa ran at the University of Michigan where she was an Indoor NCAA Champion in the Distance Medley in 2005. She was a two time NCAA Indoor Track & Field All-American. She was inducted into the Lorain County Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2010.

Sheri (Horvath) Scanlon was a Basketball and Volleyball star. In her senior year of 1991-1992 she was an Honorable Mention All American, 1st Team All Ohio, Lorain County Miss Basketball, 1st Team All District, Northeast Ohio District Basketball Player of the Year, Plain Dealer Player of the Year, and Southwestern Conference Player of the Year. She went on to play basketball at Hofstra University and Robert Morris College. She finished her career at RMC fourth in total career points. She was 1st Team All Northeast Conference in 1997 & 2nd Team All Northeast Conference in 1995 & 1996. She was inducted into the Robert Morris College Hall of Fame in 2009. She played professionally for Pembroke Basketball Club in Malta and averaged 19 points per game.

Amy (McKinley) Agrella ran Cross Country and Track. She won individual and team Girls Cross Country State Championships in 1991, and was the 1600m State Champion in 1993. She was the State Runner up in Cross Country (1992) and in the 3200m Run in Track & Field (1993). She finished fourth at the State Cross Country Meet in 1990, leading her Team to a runner-up finish. She was a two time Southwestern Conference Cross Country MVP and the Southwestern Conference Girls Track & Field MVP in 1993. She currently holds the school record in the 1600m (4:54.23), 3200m (10:42.5), & in Cross Country. Amy was a USA Today High School All-American in the 1600m & 3200m Runs as one of the top ten fastest girls in the United States in 1993. She was All-Ohio eight times. Amy ran for the University of Arkansas where she earned All-American Honors in 1995 in the 10,000m Run. She was a member of the NCAA Division I Cross Country Team Runners-up in 1993.

Jack Moskal was a three sport standout. He was a member of the Football, Basketball, and Track & Field programs from 1950-54. He was a High Jump State Qualifier and Conference High Jump Champion in 1954. He was the Conference Football Player of the Year in 1953. He scored 752 career points in Basketball. In one season he averaged just over 22 of his team's 35 points per game.

Phil Parker was a Football star during his time at Steele. In 1980 he was 3rd Team All-Ohio, 1st Team All-District, 1st Team All Lakeland Conference, & 1st Team All-Lorain County. He led the team in tackles and tied a team record with 15 Career Interceptions. Phil played at Michigan State University where he was a 2nd Team All-American twice, All-Big Ten three times, and the Defensive MVP of the All-American Bowl (1984). Parker was defensive MVP at Michigan State in 1983 and 1985, and was the MVP of the 1984 Cherry Bowl. His 16 Interceptions ranked 3rd all time at the time his career ended. His collegiate coaching career has made stops at his alma mater, as well as the Universities of Toledo and Iowa, where he currently serves as the Defensive Coordinator.

Chris Russo was a Wrestling standout at Steele where he was a two time State runner-up at 112 pounds in 1988 & 1989. He was an OHSAA Regional Champion, three time District Champion, and Southwestern Conference Champion. He held records in multiple categories until the OHSAA Changed the number of matches competitors are allowed to wrestle. Chris wrestled at Indiana University where he placed 8th at the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships at 126 pounds in 1994, which earned him All-American Honors.

The 1962 Cross Country Team won the OHSAA State Championship, the first team title in school history. The team was coached by Hall of Famer Richard S. Cooley and consisted of Richard Brumagin, Kenny Greer, Bert Koontz, Jim Loutzenhiser, Bob Miller, Tom Schoemig, and Dennis Traster.