

# HALL OF FAME

## 2018 Induction Class

### Thomas R. Bausman – 1966

#### Sports Participated:

Football – 4 Varsity Letters  
Track and Field – 3 Varsity Letters  
Basketball – 1 Varsity Letter

#### Football

- Tom was part of the trio, in the Rensselaer Backfield. His counterparts are Hall of Famers Bill Morton and Dan Epler.
- The 1964 and 1965 teams set state scoring records with most of the points coming from Bausman, Epler and Morton
- In the 2 years, the trio scored an astonishing 73 touchdowns and 17 extra points. Bausman accounted for 24 touchdowns and 7 extra points during that time. Bausman totaled 33 % of the scoring, while Morton added 36% ( 27 touchdowns and 6 extra points) and Epler contributed 29% (22 touchdowns and 4 extra points).
- The Bombers were 15-3 during this 2 year period.

#### Track

- 1965 and 1966 ½ Mile Relay Track Record Holder
- 1964 and 1965 Shuttle Hurdle Record Holder

**College attended –** Western Michigan University – Undergraduate  
Indiana University – School of Dentistry

**Current employment –** Retired after life long career in Dentistry

**Fondest memory of high school athletics –** My fondest memory was entire senior year and playing football.

**Life lesson learned from athletics –** Hard work is necessary, but you have to have fun.

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### Jim Pucka – 1984

**Sports Participated:** Track and Field – 4 Years

#### Track and Field

Rensselaer Central High School accomplishments:

- 2-Time RMD Champion and record holder (151' 4.5")
- Conference Champion '83, '84 and record holder (161' 9")
- Sectional Champion '83, '84 and record holder (173' 0")
- IHSAA state qualifier '83, '84
- Nationally ranked in top 30 high school throwers in 1984
- IHSAA State finalist, 2nd place finish, 1984 (153' 1")
- Midwest Meet of Champions finalist
- School Record Holder (177' 5")

Wabash College Accomplishments

- 2-time Conference Champion and record holder
- 2-time NCAA national finalist
- School record holder

**College attended** – Wabash College - 1988

**Current employment** – Clinic Director, The Spine Worx, Lafayette, IN

#### Fondest memory of high school athletics

- #1 – Throwing discus in the snow during the first few days of outside practice in the Spring
- #2 – Seeing my teammates (and friends on other teams) set their personal bests.
- #3 – Seeing Coach Edmonds do a discus spin every time I saw him in the hallway.

**Life lesson learned from athletics** – Life is a competition with yourself...the day you settle for less than your best is the day you've lost.

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### Kyla Chapman (Thoman) – 2007

**Sports Participated:** Cross Country  
Swimming  
Track

#### Cross Country

- All Conference – 2004 and 2005
- Sectional Champion 2005
- Regional Champion 2005
- State Qualifier 2004 – finished 34<sup>th</sup>
- State Qualifier 2005 – finished 9<sup>th</sup>
- All State – 2004 and 2005
- 4000 K Record Holder – 14:22

#### Track and Field

- Conference Champion 3200 m – 2005
- Sectional Champion 3200 m – 2005 and 2007
- State Qualifier 3200 m – 2005 and 2007
- School Record Holder
  - 3200 m – 11:47.47 set in 2005
  - Varsity Distance Medley set in 2005
  - 3200 Relay Team set in 2006

#### College Attended

- Purdue University, later transferred & graduated from University of Wisconsin (Madison)
- All American Academic Honors: Cross Country, Indoor & Outdoor Track (12x)
- Cross Country: Top Ten Finish; All Region Honors
- NCAA Championships Qualifier: Cross Country & Outdoor Track; 5000M Run
- Varsity Jacket Recipient
- Badgers Cross Country Team Captain/Distance Squad Track Team Captain
- SAAC (Student Athlete Action Council) Cross Country Team Representative

#### After College Athletic Accomplishments

- Earned Pro Card in triathlon
- USA Triathlon bona fide Recruit for Rio 2016
- Invited to live at Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs- Resident in 2013 season
- Winner of the Clermont Continental Cup Race
- Participant in Barbados Continental Cup Race
- Participant in the World Triathlon Series World Cup Race in Edmonton, AB Canada

**Current Employment** – Kronos Inc: Project Manager for Software Implementation in Retail Vertical (current clients include Nike, Ralph Lauren, Forever 21)

#### Fondest memory of high school athletics:

- 1 – I have an overall sentiment for our cross country team from 2003-2007... We had a small, but very strong team- especially for a small school! Everyone came to practice with a good attitude and ready to work hard! But we always had fun. In pre-season we did a watermelon run where we had to pass around a watermelon during a 4 mile run; sounds silly but Coach Dobson wanted us to learn how to work as a team, push each other, and help our teammates. We did tons of crazy workouts with Coach Dobson; some of which I have used again with young athletes that I coach. I remember many of them and I know they made me a stronger runner (mentally and physically!).
- 2 – One of my fondest racing moments was very early in my running career. I was just beginning to figure out that I had a talent for running in my Sophomore year... We had advanced as a team all the way to semi state in cross country and I knew that I could make it to state, but it would be very close; only top 15 advanced. I ran my heart out in that race and when I was coming down the finishing shoot I was in an all-out head to head sprint for 15<sup>th</sup> place. When I crossed the finish line and the race volunteer handed me my placement stick I looked down to see #15 on my stick. I was overwhelmed with joy! From then on, I knew that I could really go somewhere with my running and I knew I wanted to pursue that goal.

**Life lessons learned in high school sports** – I learned how to work hard for a goal and that achieving your goals required physical and mental strength. You have to believe to achieve... I also learned the importance of being confident, but also having humility. Since learning those lessons I have strived to carry myself that way as an athlete, person, and professional. Lastly, the best kind of team is one that works hard, but also has fun. So many high school teams and sports today are all work and no fun... I feel for those athletes because they are missing out on one of the best parts of high school sports.