

Dan DeRusha

As a member of the class of 2004, Dan earned 8 varsity letters in cross country and track & field. He was captain and most valuable award winner on both teams during one of the most successful periods in Milford High School running. In 2002, Dan became the first male to win Oakland County, KVC, and Regional cross country individual titles in the same year. Later in 2003, Dan was a leader on Milford's first ever MHSAA state championship cross country team. He was also a leader on Milford's first ever MITCA Team State Championship which they won back-to-back in 2002 and 2003. Dan was a two-time All-American in the 400 meter relay and at the time of his graduation held the school record in the event. He earned All-State honors a total of five times. Dan and his relay teams also held the school record twice in the 3200m relay, and he set the cross country Kensington course school record in 2002.

At the time of graduation, Dan was #2 all-time in cross country behind 2009 Hall of Fame inductee Tom Greenless, and held 8 class records across both sports. Dan helped Milford win five Regional championships, five KVC championships, and three Oakland County Championships.

After high school, Dan accepted an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy where he continued to compete in cross country and track. He earned a varsity letter in indoor track before graduating in 2008 with athletic distinction.

Dan, who was recently promoted to the rank of Major, is a highly decorated combat pilot. He has served seven combat tours in the Middle East, in support of six major operations including IRAQI FREEDOM, ENDURING FREEDOM, and INHERENT RESOLVE. He has flown a total of 248 combat missions over Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. Notably, in 2014, Dan commanded the first KC-10 combat air refueling mission over Syria.

Dan and his beautiful wife Brandie have two wonderful sons, Beckett (2) and Holden (6 mos), and have lived in many places over the years. The DeRusha's are currently moving to Tampa, Florida where Dan was selected to be the Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commander of US Central Command.

