

## THE NORMAN J. HUBNER ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

**Zygmund “Hap” Belzowski** was the Slicers’ leading scorer and MVP in the banner 1943-44 basketball campaign during which they went to the state finals before bowing to eventual champion Evansville Bosse, 41-38, in the afternoon round. Despite the tough loss, Belzowski was the leading scorer at the state finals. The six-foot, 155-pounder also led the Slicers with 273 points and was the leading scorer in the strong Northern Indiana Conference with 112 points in 10 games. He finished his career with 365 points.

Belzowski later attended Valparaiso University and became part of what was billed as “The World’s Tallest Team” with a frontline averaging what for that time was a staggering 6-foot-5. He played varsity basketball as a guard-forward for two years and also was a varsity baseball pitcher-second baseman for two years. Both years he led the Crusaders in hitting.

During his career, he coached at Michigan schools, Three Oaks and Lakesville before moving to California where he continued for many years at Santa Fe High in Santa Fe Springs. He posted a three-year record of 70-39 at Three Oaks with three consecutive conference championships. His record at Lakesville was 56-32 in four years, while his record at Santa Fe was 50-66 in five years.

In 1969, Belzowski was named to Indiana’s Silver Anniversary team, which honored the top basketball players from the 1943-44 campaign. The sponsoring Indianapolis Star did not pick an Indiana All-Star team during the World War II years, so he missed his chance at that prestigious honor. However, many years later, the Star decided to pick honorary teams from that era and Belzowski was among those chosen.

