

**2009**



**Becky Baker**

I am so privileged to have been blessed in so many ways, namely, that I had the great fortune to be born to the most loving and devoted parents, Dan and Carolyn Finck of Junction City, and raised with seven loving and caring brothers and sisters. I attribute my faith, values, principles, and hard work ethics to my early life with a large family and consider my entire academic, athletic, and life accomplishments to the style of life impressed upon me in my childhood. I learned from a very early age that if you were going to do something, you had better do it right, and you had better do it to the best of your God-given ability.

My earliest experiences with sports began when I was just a few years old. I remember the countless games of kickball, wiffleball, supposed-to-be “touch” football, and “no blood, no foul” basketball, that we played as a family on long summer days. I also remember attending basketball, baseball, and football games, track meets, and volleyball matches to watch my older siblings play. It was these moments that triggered my interest in and desire to play sports.

Now that time has passed and I look back at my high school career, I remember the teams I belonged to, the teammates I played with, and the coaches I had. They instilled within me the motivation and desire to be the best I could possibly be and taught me to never be satisfied. Among these great coaches were Tom Maxwell, Tim O’Hare, Jerry Bankes, and Margie Hammond. A special thanks goes out to all of them for making me a better player and athlete, but more importantly, for making me a better person.

And so, I leave you with this: never stop learning; never be satisfied; never believe that the goals you so desire are too far out of reach. Take pride in yourself and your accomplishments, but do not allow them to define whom you are. Instead, be known for the little things: selflessness, humility, and compassion, which make the biggest impact on those you encounter. Those are the things for which I would like to be remembered. Athletics is just a small part of who I am. I take much greater pride in being a wife to Judd, a mother to Grace (5) and Lane (4), and a teacher in the New Lexington City School District.

In high school, Rebecca Finck-Baker ran cross-country and track and played basketball and earned a total of ten varsity letters. While she had some success in all three sports, she achieved more honors in the latter two. In track, she had a total of eight first place finishes in the MVL League track meets, including one as a sophomore, four as a junior, and three as a senior. She made it to the State Track Meet twice, once as a junior where she anchored the 4 x 200 meter relay, and again her senior year when she qualified in the 400-meter dash after earning the title Regional Champion in the same event. Currently, her name is in the books for holding three records at New Lexington High School: the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, and the 4 x 200 meter relay. She was a two-time Academic All-Ohioan and was named the *Zanesville Times Recorder* “Spring Sports Athlete of the Year” in 1997.

In basketball, Finck earned All-Muskingum Valley League honors three times with a “Unanimous Decision” her senior year, All-Southeastern District honors her junior and senior years, as well as Honorable Mention All-Ohio her senior year. As a senior she was nominated to the Pepsi-Cola Classic and Muskingum Valley League all star teams and was named a *Zanesville Times Recorder* “Prime Time Player”. The team was Sectional Champs and District Runners-Up both her junior and senior years.

Even though the end of high school brought the end of her playing career, it hasn’t meant the end of the life that is associated with athletics. After graduating from The Ohio State University in 2001 with her Bachelors and again in 2002 with her Masters in English education, Finck-Baker returned to NLHS to teach. Along with teaching, she has had the great opportunity to impart some “other” knowledge to her students through coaching. She has coached varsity cross-country, girls’ junior high basketball, JV girls’ basketball, and has been an assistant coach for varsity boys’ track. She continues to set goals for herself, which most recently included running in the 2009 Columbus-Nationwide Marathon and working on a second Masters Degree in Educational Administration and Leadership.

Rebecca Finck-Baker would like to thank Panthers Football Coach Bill Nutt for the nomination and to congratulate the other 2009 NLHS Hall of Fame Inductees, especially her brother, Dan Finck.



**Kevin Cannon**

Kevin Cannon is a 1977 graduate of New Lexington High School. While in high school, he earned varsity letters in football, basketball, and track. While having success in all sports he was known for accomplishments on the gridiron. He was a member of the 1974, 1975, and 1976 football MVL Championship teams who compiled a record of 29 wins and 1 loss. During his junior year, he was voted Southeastern Ohio Kicker of the Year, and First Team All-MVL. In 1976, Kevin was a member of the Class AA top-rated team in the state by the Associated Press and United Press International. He competed in the State Semi-final game in Welcome Stadium. Kevin was voted first team All -Ohio Running Back, and was also selected as the Southeastern A.P. Prep All Star Back of the Year. He was voted Southeastern Ohio Player of the Year. He was First Team All -MVL on offense and defense and MVL Offensive Player of the Year. He rushed for over 1,000 yards and scored 16 touchdowns. Kevin also performed the kicking duties. During the game against Morgan his senior year, Kevin rushed for 286 yards and scored six touchdowns. During his track career, Kevin high jumped 6 feet 1 inch, long jumped 21 feet 6 inches, and pole-vaulted twelve feet. After graduating from high school, Kevin Cannon attended Auburn University and Ohio University.

Kevin Cannon is now a professional surveyor and owner of Cannon Land Surveying. He is married to Judy (Leckrone) Cannon and they have two sons, Drew, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2008, and Clint, who is currently playing the quarterback position at NLHS. They both proudly don the orange and black. Kevin is the son of Max and Pat Cannon.



**Daniel Finck**

I am very proud, humbled, and honored to have graduated from New Lexington High School and be invited to join alongside others in the Athletic Hall of Fame. I wish to thank all of those responsible for my induction and congratulate my current fellow inductees, those who are already there, and those who will be.

As I currently reside in Lancaster, Junction City will always be my second home. The grateful son of Dan and Carolyn Finck, I was privileged to be part of one of the greatest teams ever assembled. My first “coaches” taught my brothers and sisters and me the most important things in life. The important things being faith, determination, unselfishness, and personal pride, which made it easy to be a good “teammate”. Annette, Darrell, Melissa, Rebecca, Adam, Patricia, and Pamela, I wish to thank you also. My siblings have always been a wonderful, loving part of my life, and forever will be.

I also wish to thank all of the teachers and coaches that have been a part of my life. It is their unrelenting care and compassion that allows us to reach goals we may have thought impossible. I would like to thank, coaches and teachers Ned Underwood, Larry Saffell, and particularly Coach Rob Carpenter, who guided and pushed me to be the best that I could possibly be. Coach Carpenter helped me achieve my goal of going to The Ohio State University to play football.

While sports are not the only avenue in life that can take an individual where he or she may want to go, it is one that offers many different opportunities and one that I hold near and dear to my heart. A sport opens one’s eyes to the community and just how much they mean to an individual. Without the support of the community and fans, there would be no hall-of-fame players; there would just be a game, a game with no meaning. That is how much fans and community really mean to the game.

The luckiest of us are able to be part of a team that allows us to shine at times as individuals. Without the selflessness of teammates, my becoming an All-Ohioan in football and track would not have been possible, only a dream. Teammates push us to become better, push us harder, and help us up when we get knocked down. There are bonds created among teammates that cannot and will not, ever be broken.

When a person fails at something there are some that may view it as the end of the road, but so many opportunities arise from those failures. While I have failed many times at sports, learning from these shortcomings has awarded me some of the most wonderful things I have in my life.

As I continue my journey in life, I now have my own “team” to coach. That team would be my sons Casey and Sammy, of whom I am their biggest fan. My job is made easier with help from my co-head coach in Deborah, my wife and dedicated educator. We know that their participation in sports and guidance from teachers and coaches will help mold and shape them into honorable young men who will be successful in all that they do.

Once again, thank you to all who made this possible!



**Jim Leckrone**

Jim Leckrone is a 1965 graduate of St. Aloysius Academy in New Lexington. He received his bachelor's degree from Rio Grande College and masters from Xavier University. Course work was also completed at the University of Kentucky, Ohio University, Ohio State University and Ashland University.

He began his career in education at Sheridan High School where he taught English and was an assistant coach in numerous sports until June of 1974. In the fall of '74 he became AD and English teacher at Maysville High School. He remained in this position through the '77-'78 school year.

In the fall of '78 Leckrone began his tenure at New Lexington High School. He taught English and served as AD until the fall of 1980. In August of that year he became Assistant Principal while continuing as AD. Jim remained in these positions until November 1986 when he was named high school principal. He served as principal until his retirement in July of 2004.

Although the positions held could often be challenging, Jim feels that the good times far outweigh those challenges. Some of the most memorable events include: Serving as MVL President on three occasions, being on the floor at St. John's Arena for the girls state basketball finals, helping students develop the skills necessary to meet the new State expectations, the ceremony marking the official opening of the new facility, attending numerous State football playoff games, being part of the development of the Top Ten Banquet to honor academic achievement, establishing a relationship with Hocking College which still benefits students at NLHS, having a graduate involved in NASA, having a graduate serving our military as a physician, and yet another graduate serving as a high ranking official at the Pentagon.

Leckrone is also very proud of the numerous graduates who have returned to our area to become part of the various school systems. Although the above list includes many highlights, it is impossible to recognize all those who are deserving. Jim would like to thank parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, board members, and most of all, students with whom he worked during these many years at NLHS. The support of all these people made his years in New Lexington a very rewarding experience.

Finally, Jim would like to thank his proposer, Mr. Dan Adams, and his family members for the sacrifices they made during his thirty-five years in the educational field.





**Tim Shumaker**

Tim is a 1976 graduate of New Lexington High School. The late Russ Bethel who took a special interest in him stimulated his involvement in basketball. He played varsity basketball under the guidance of Dick Bowman from 1973-1976. He earned three varsity letters and was co-captain during his senior year. After the 1975-76 campaign, he garnered 1<sup>st</sup> Team MVL, 1<sup>st</sup> Team SEO and Honorable Mention All-Ohio accolades while scoring 19.2 points per game along with snaring 12.1 rebounds per game. In 1975, he also earned a track letter and was named to the National Honor Society at New Lexington High School.

From 1976-1980 his playing career continued at Muskingum College under the tutelage of Dr. Jim Burson. During this time, he earned three varsity letters and was co-captain of the team in 1980.

Tim's coaching and teaching career began in 1980 at Lancaster High School where he served as the assistant coach to Arden Reid until 1986. Two of those teams made Regional Final appearances. From 1986-1988 he was the head basketball coach at Lancaster High School. During the 1988-1989 season, Tim was the assistant to Jim Hammond at Tiffin University where the team won the first ever NAIA District Championship and participated in the NAIA national tournament in Kansas City. From 1989-1993 he assisted Sam Dixon and Mike Sheridan at Denison University. He became the head basketball coach at Fisher Catholic High School in 1996 and occupied the position until 2002. During this time, his teams won 110 games and lost 30. They also won six consecutive Mid-State League championships as well as a district championship in 2002 (the first since 1972) and were twice district runner-ups. Tim was named the A.P. Ohio Coach of the year in 1997. He was also honored as District 11 O.H.S.B.C.A. Coach of the Year four times. In 2000, he was named the Sportsmanship Coach of the Year by the Lancaster Officials Association and in 2002 coached the South squad in the annual Ohio North-South basketball game. While at Fisher Catholic High School, he had the opportunity to coach two players that received district Player of the Year awards and five players that earned All-Ohio honors, as well as many other special players. His tenure at Tri-Valley High School began in 2002 and concluded in 2008. His teams won 105 games and lost 26. They also won four consecutive Muskingum Valley League Championships along with a district championship in 2007 and were once district runner-ups. He was named A.P. Ohio Coach of the Year in 2003. In 2003 and 2005, Tim was honored as the A.P. Eastern District, Division II Coach of the Year. The District 12 O.H.S.B.C.A. named him Coach of the Year in 2005 and 2007. During his time at Tri-Valley High School, he had the opportunity to coach two players that received district Player of the Year awards and four players that earned All-Ohio honors along with many other special players.

Tim has been an O.H.S.A.A. umpire since 1985. He has umpired ten O.H.S.A.A. State Finals games during his career as well as umpiring the Babe Ruth World Series from 2004-2007. He has also served as Lancaster Umpires Association President since 1992 and has assigned umpires for various American Legion Baseball events the past twelve summers. In 2007, the Central District Baseball Coaches honored him as Umpire of the Year.

Tim was born and raised in New Lexington. He is the son of William and the late Wanda (Jones) Shumaker. He currently resides in Lancaster with his wife Cathy (Finck) Shumaker and father William Shumaker. They have two daughters, Maggie (3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher – Upper Scioto Valley Schools) and Elizabeth (OSU student). He is in his thirtieth year in education and is a math teacher at Tri-Valley Middle School.

**2010**



**Larry Barnhouse**

Larry Barnhouse, a graduate of NLHS in 'Simply the Best' Class of 1965, began playing sports in New Lexington when his late parents, Herman and Loisine Barnhouse moved here from Morgan County after he finished first grade. Linton Lewis was his first 'coach' as he was a member of Lewis' Seven Sons Basketball team.

When Larry entered New Lex Junior High playing football, basketball and track his athletic career blossomed. He was 'Athlete of the Year' in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In 1961 he began playing football for the legendary Jim Rockwell and the team won the MVL. The following year he was calling defense for the Panthers and led the team in tackles. This distinction continued the following two years. Larry was co-captain of the team his junior year and captain his senior year. The Panthers shut out their opponents eight straight games in 1963. In 1964 the Panthers were 10-0 and MVL League Champions. His skills on the gridiron earned him the honor of being All-MVL three years and All-SEO two years.

From '65-69 he attended Heidelberg College where he started for three years and was the defensive signal caller and co-captain of the team. Following graduation, he returned to NLHS as a teacher/coach. For the next eight years he would be Rockwell's number one assistant football coach. The record they compiled with the teams over those eight years was amazing: 1969-1976 eight MVL League Championships. Barnhouse was a part of 10 MVL Football Championships for New Lex - two as a player and eight as a coach. Four of those seasons the Panthers were undefeated and five seasons they recorded only one loss. He coached his brother Brent, now an insurance agent in New Lexington, on the Panthers '71 MVL Championship team.

Larry served as Rockwell's assistant track coach. When Rock retired, Larry took over the program. During his tenure he won an MVL Track Championship and started the NLHS Girl's Track program.

In 1977, he resigned his teaching/coaching duties at NLHS to become the head football/track coach at River View High School. He was named Tribuneland Coach of the Year twice and Southeastern Coach of the Year once. Barnhouse is the only person to receive All-SEO football honors as both player and coach. His RVHS track team won the MVL making him the only coach to win the title in two different league schools. He coached in the first MVL All-Star Football game and the East-West All-Star Football game.

A certified track official, Barnhouse served multiple years as Clerk of Course/starter for MVL meets and the New Lexington and River View Invitational. In addition he worked the Jesse Owens Track Meets at OSU.

Barnhouse credits his athletic success to his parents and family, his great teammates, the many outstanding coaches he played for and work with, and the loyal Panther fans. He resides in Hershey, PA with his wife Judy. They are parents of Carol Barnhouse Dudzinski and Reeves Barnhouse and grandparents of four grandsons.



**Mike Griggs**

Mike Griggs is a 1972 graduate of New Lexington High School. He earned a total of 7 varsity letters in track and basketball in the years of 1969-1972. He was All MVL & All SEO in track and basketball. He set several records at NLHS in track: High hurdles (14.9 seconds), Shuttle / Hurdle Relay, most points scored in the season, and high jump record of 6 foot 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. In basketball his senior year he had the most rebounds in that season and also scoring leader for the league. He set a single season scoring mark of 288 points in track his senior year and did not compete the last 3 meets of the season due to a leg injury.

Mike is the son of Jerry and Shirley Griggs. He currently resides in New Lexington with his wife Betty (Clontz) Griggs. They have two sons, Christopher Griggs of New Lexington and Derek Griggs who is deceased. He is a mine manager for Buckingham Coal Co.

**2011**



**Joe Fondale**

As an athlete at New Lexington High School Joe Fondale won four varsity letters in both football and track & field and one in basketball. Fondale earned All Muskingum Valley League status 3X in each football and 3X in track and field. Joe graduated as the school's career rushing leader with 3,273 rushing yards.

During the 1994-95 school year Joe earned All-Muskingum Valley League, first team All-SEO, Honorable Mention All-State in football and was the Muskingum Valley League's top rusher. Fondale also played on the district championship basketball team. In track and field he was an All-Muskingum Valley League performer as well as a Regional qualifier.

Fondale was fortunate to compete with many talented and dedicated teammates at NLHS and was fortunate to have dedicated and caring coaches such as: Roger Hooper, Larry Saffell, Mike Turnes, Russ Bethel and Todd Brown. Fondale was supported throughout high school by his loving family and parents, Carl and Ruth Fondale.

Post-high school graduation Joe won 4 varsity letters in Football at Ohio University and was 9X National Championships qualifier in the USA Weightlifting competition.

Currently, Joe Fondale is a commissioned officer in United States Navy and is stationed at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He is currently assigned to the Physical Education Department.

Joe resides in Annapolis, Maryland with his wife Allison and daughter Elaine.





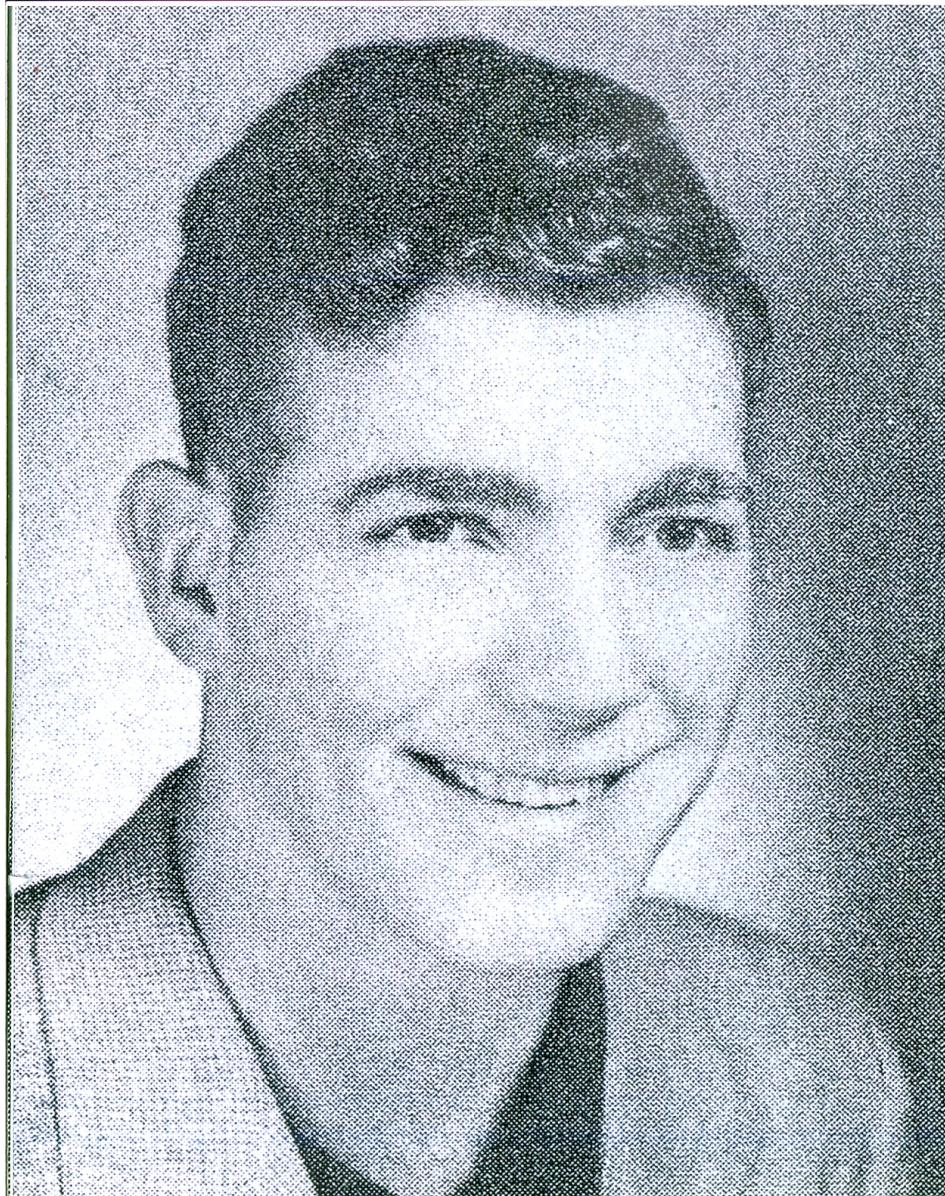
**Todd Fox**

As an athlete at New Lexington High School Todd Fox won nine varsity letters in basketball, cross-country, track & field and tennis. Fox earned All-Muskingum Valley League status 3X in basketball and 1X in track & field and holds the school's career marks in the 800 meters, 1600 meter relay and the 3200 meter relay. Fox was All-Ohio in both basketball and cross country and qualified for state track and field championships in the 800 meters.

In basketball Todd was 2X All-District, 2X All-Sectional, 3X All-Muskingum Valley League and led the league in scoring his senior year. In cross country Fox was All-Ohio, All-Regional and 2X All-District. In track and field he was a state qualifier and holds the above-mentioned three school marks along with his All-Muskingum Valley League status

Fox was fortunate to compete with many talented and dedicated teammates at NLHS. He was fortunate to have dedicated and caring coaches such as: Dennis Welch, Tim O'Hare, Paul Albanese, Larry Saffell, Ned Underwood and Tom Maxwell. Fox was supported throughout high school by his loving parents, Greg and Carolyn Fox.





**George Hill**

George Hill is a 2011 Hall of Fame NLHS Inductee. George was on the first track and baseball team at New Lexington High School. He played football four years and was co-captain with long time friend Don Hutchinson. George earned eight varsity letters in football, track and field and Baseball.

In football, Hill was the team captain and the MVL Player of the Year in 1953 in leading the Panthers to an MVL Co-Championship. On offense he averaged eleven yards per carry his senior year. Hill was coached by John Neff and Jack Orrison. George received all MVL honors on offense as well as defense and was also the first player from the MVL to play in the North and South Ohio High School football game in 1954.

George was the father of six sons and one daughter and retired from Kaiser Aluminum in Heath, Ohio. He also had a business in Heath, Ohio. George loved fishing at Lake Erie and hunting.

The George Hill Family will present his 1954 All-Star Player award from the Ohio High School Coaches Association to New Lexington High School. The award will be on display at the school.





**Tom Maxwell**

A graduate of Miller High School and Ohio University, Tom and his wife Marsha are the parents of two daughters, Julie (New Albany) and Lyndi (Athens).

Tom's love of the game of basketball began at an early age when he and his dad, Bob, were loyal followers of the Corning Railroaders, seldom missing a game. He played junior high basketball under Coach Jim Cook where their teams won the county championship, losing only one game in two years. He went on to letter three years in high school.

Tom began his teaching career in 1975 at Junction City Elementary. It was in that same year he began coaching junior high boys basketball. He coached both junior high and JV basketball for six years under head coach, Dick Bowman. He then was head boys' basketball coach for three years. After resigning this position, he was named Athletic Director. He had the good fortune of coaching golf teams who were successful in winning two Muskingum Valley League Championships and an 8<sup>th</sup> place finish in the state tournament in 1987.

It was in 1989, when he was named head girls' basketball coach, a position he held for thirteen years, that Tom experienced the most success. In his first year he led the 1989-90 team to the regional finals. During his tenure, his teams won 7 Sectional Championships, 3 District Runner-ups, 2 District Championships, 1 Regional Runner-up, and 1 MVL Championship.

Tom also received many personal accolades. He was inducted into the OHSAA Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1997 for 100 victories at the varsity level. He was named Division II District 12 Coach of the Year in 1995, 1996 and 1997, MVL Coach of the Year in 2001 and Lancaster Officials Coach of the Year in 1995. He also coached the All Ohio North South All-Star Game, Muskingum Valley League All-Star Game, and District 12 All-Star Game.

Tom credits much of his success to the hard work and determination of his players. Dedicated assistant coaches, parents, fans, scorekeepers, statisticians and video staff all played an important role in the success of the program. He would like to especially recognize the support he received from former Athletic Director, Dan Adams, longtime friend and assistant coach, Charlie Masterson, scorekeeper, Dale "Scout" Cannon and his wife, Marsha.