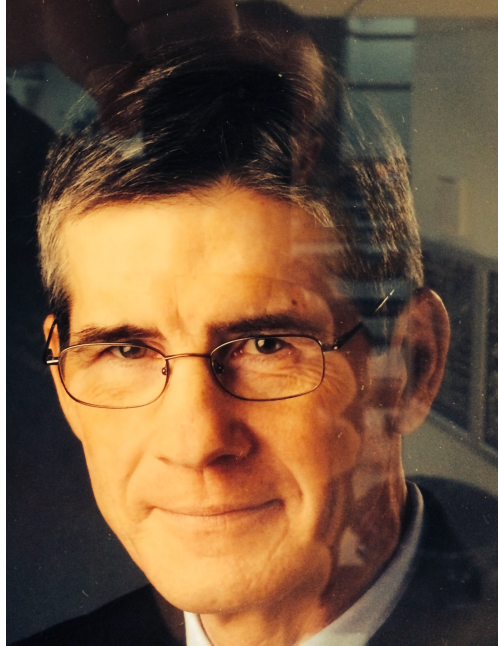


2007



Mike Halaiko

Mike is a 1968 graduate of Akron St. Vincent High School. He attended Kent State University and is a cum laude graduate from the University of Akron in 1972. Mike started his career in Education as an English/Industrial Arts Teacher and Assistant Wrestling Coach at Cleveland St. Joseph High School in 1973.

In the fall of 1974, Mike began teaching at New Lexington High School as an English/ Industrial Arts Teacher. Mike earned a Master's Degree in Technology and Secondary Administration from The Ohio State University in August of 1979. From 1974-1976 Mike was a New Lexington Jr. High Football Coach.

In late fall of 1979, Mike started the New Lexington Wrestling Program and was Head Wrestling Coach for 13 years. In that time period, Mike had five consecutive undefeated MVL Wrestling Championships from 1988-1992. He also initiated the creation of a Reserve Wrestling Program and a Jr. High Wrestling Program in 1988.

Two Sectional Wrestling Titles were won in 1991 and 1992. Coach Halaiko took state qualifiers to the state tournament nine out of thirteen years and trained 26 MVL Champions.

Mike was Cross Country Coach from 1983-1985; Prom Advisor from 1977-1986; and Yearbook Advisor from 1983-1985. In the fall of 1993, after 21 years in the classroom, Mike was appointed Middle School Assistant Principal/District Technology Director, and became full time District Technology Director in the fall of 1995.

Mike is currently District Technology Director and has been employed by New Lexington City Schools for over 33 years. Mike's wife, Janie, has been Principal of Junction City Elementary for the past eight years, and was a second grade teacher for 12 years at JCE as well as NLMS Media Specialist for three years.

Mike and Janie are the proud parents of two outstanding New Lexington High School Graduates: Michael John, a 1992 top ten graduate of NLHS, who is an Attorney in Baltimore, Maryland, and Khrista Elise, Salutatorian of NLHS Class of 2005, who is currently a Junior at Marietta College.



Jim Kozlowski

Jim is a 1970 graduate of New Lexington High School. He attended Ohio University on a football scholarship. He was on the All Mid-American Conference Academic Team as a sophomore and was ABC player of the game against Kent State University on September 23, 1972. Jim graduated from OU with a Bachelors of Business Administration.

Jim attended New Lexington High School from 1966-1970 and was involved in varsity football and track for three years and basketball for two. Football was Jim's primary sport. He was selected to the first team Muskingum Valley League three times. Once as an end and twice as a running back. The same awards and honors were received for the All Southeastern Ohio Football. Jim was honored to be selected to play for the South squad for the North-South Ohio All Star game where he started at cornerback. From there it was off to Ohio University on a full ride football scholarship. During Jim's junior year at NLHS, he led the MVL in rushing. Jim played from starting whistle to final gun playing running back on offense, safety on defense and return man for punts and kickoffs. During NLHS' kickoff and punts he was on the coverage teams.

Track was the other major sport where he competed in the high hurdles, low hurdles, and long jump and ran anchor on the 880-yard relay. Jim led the track team in scoring in both his junior and senior years. During the MVL meet his senior year, Jim was the leading scorer and MVP of the meet. Jim briefly held the school record in the 220-yard dash.

Jim was a member of the 1969-70 MVL Champs in football and the 1969 and 1970 MVL track champions. Jim enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in Germany. During this time he attended Boston University Overseas Campus and earned a Masters of Science in Business Administration. After being discharged in 1977 and returning to Ohio, he began working in the insurance industry. He moved to New Jersey in 1978 and continued in the insurance industry for 25 years. Jim served on the High Point Regional School Board of Education for 11 years and was President for 2 years. He was a member of the Wallkill Valley Rotary for 10 years, serving as President for 2 years and received the Paul Harris Fellow award. He is a past member of the Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey, served as President of the Independent Insurance Agents of Morris and Sussex Counties and also served on the Board of Directors of the Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey. Jim and his wife Karen, a teacher of French and Spanish, have been married for 27 years.

They have two children. Their son, Ben, is a senior at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland and their daughter, Alexandra, is a missionary in training for Teen Missions International in Merritt Island, Florida. Jim is currently employed by TAB Microfilming and Archiving in Andover, New Jersey.



Jim Miller

1953: Football – MVL Co-Champions, All MVL Defensive Back

1954: Football – MVL Champions, All MVL Offensive Back, Team Co-Captain, MVL
Leading scorer with 24 Touchdowns.

1954-1955 : Basketball-TM Co-Captain – MVL Champions, All SEO Guard 14 PPG

1955-1959; 4 Years Football & 2 Years in Track – Capital University



Tammy Ryan Thomas

During her high school career, Tammy scored over 1,000 points, helping her team to the first outright MVL basketball title in 1989. She was a three time All-MVL pick, two time All-Southeastern Ohio and All-District her junior and senior year. She was third-team All-Ohio her senior year.

She went on to play for Ohio Wesleyan University where she was a four-year letter winner in women's basketball. She capped her career with a senior season that saw her named North Coast Athletic Conference player of the year and third-team American Women's Sports Foundation All-American.

She led the team and ranked fourth in the league with an average of 15.3 points per game and 5.4 rebounds per game that season. In her junior year she was second-team All-League honors, with an outstanding effort in the League Tournament as the Bishops took an overtime decision over Wittenberg to win the NCAC Tournament title.

The team compiled a record of 81-24 during her four years, with one outright title and another co-championship. She was elected to the Ohio Wesleyan Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999.



Jeff Wycinski

1971-1972-1973: Football – MVL Co-Champions

1972: Track - MVL Champions, Football – 2nd Team All MVL Defense

1973: Football – 1st Team All MVL Defense, 1st Team All SEO

1974: Football MVL Champions

1974: Football – 1st Team All MVL – Offense and Defense, 1st Team All SEO, 3rd Team All Ohio

1974: Football and Basketball Co-Captain – Senior Year

1975-1979: 4 Years Football – Marietta College

2002: Football – 70's ALL Decade Team Inductee – Marietta College

2008



1970 Golf Team

In 1985 the New Lexington High School golf team was State Runner-ups, District and MVL Champions. Members of the teams were Kirk Harris, Jeff Morrow, Bob Poling, Ed Rugg, Tim Strohl & Mike Wollenberg.

The son of deceased coach John Neff will be representing his father.



1985 Girls Basketball

In 1985 the Lady Panthers basketball team were State Runner-ups, District and Sectional Champions. They also captured an MVL Co-Championship. It was the first and only girls team to have a State appearance while compiling a 23-4 record.

Members of the team were Sherry Backer, Jodi Elekes, Terri Groves, Karen McCabe, Ann Mooney, Cathy Orrechio, Margie Stenson, Lisa Theisen & Teresa Wofter. The team as coached by Roger Hooper and assisted by the late Russ Bethel.

In 1984 the team was Regional runnerups. They also claimed District, Sectional and MVL Championships.



Paul Albanese

Sports have been an integral part of my life and this interest began at an early age. Sports have enabled not so good circumstances and sometimes me to understand and comprehend that life is made up of good. I have also learned how to better handle adverse circumstances, due to my playing and coaching in the arena of sports. Sports have also provided many opportunities and friendships for me. Sports have allowed me to continue my education, and have provided a stepping-stone to my coaching career.

My passion and love for the sports of baseball and basketball began with Coach Linton Lewis Sr. This was with a 6th grade basketball team, which Coach Lewis dubbed "Seven Sons." Another team, which I remember from my earlier playing days, was the Little League Indians, coached by Charley Owens and Benny Buck.

From these early experiences my love of sports continued to develop playing three sports throughout junior high and culminating in my high school career where I concentrated on basketball and baseball. The highlight of my sports experiences in high school was our high school basketball team of my senior year. This team posted a record of 17-5 and won the sectional championship and was district runners-up. The success of our senior year started with Coach Dick Bowman. Coach Bowman established a new attitude and a vision for success. He was not only a good coach but also a tremendous motivator. Also, I must factor into our success, the play of senior teammates Mike Griggs, Bill Riley, Phil Wollenberg, and the rest of that Panther team.

My participation in high school sports provided an opportunity for me at the college level. I played basketball and baseball at Fairmont State College in Fairmont West Virginia. I transferred from Fairmont State to Rio Grande University following my freshman year. I was able to letter in basketball and baseball during each of the three years at Rio Grande. I led Rio Grande in assists during my sophomore, junior and senior years. In 1975, I was a member of the League Tournament Championship Team. In baseball at Rio Grande, I received the teams leading hitter award in 1975 and clutch hitter award in 1976.

Following my college career in sports, I made a natural transition from player to coach. My coaching career began as a junior high basketball coach at St. Rose and then in the New Lexington system as a junior high coach and at the junior varsity level. I was given the opportunity to coach the varsity baseball team in 1982. The highlights of my baseball-coaching career at New Lex were two MVL Championships in 1985 & 1987. We were able to win two sectional championships, and were district runners on two occasions. I was awarded "MVL Coach of the Year" in baseball in 1985 & 1987. My tenure as New Lexington head baseball coach was for a ten-year duration with an overall record of 138 wins and 95 losses.

In July of 1988, I became the head coach in basketball at New Lexington High School. My varsity basketball-coaching career at New Lexington totaled eight years while compiling a record of 80-95. Our 1989-90, varsity team won a sectional championship and was a district semi-finalist. Our 1997-98-basketball team achieved an overall record of 16-10, won the sectional and district tournament titles, and losing in the regional championship to Dover High School.

Following my basketball coaching experiences at New Lexington, I became a coach at Rosecrans High School in Zanesville, Ohio. I had the position of top varsity assistant during my nine seasons at Rosecrans. My highlight as varsity assistant at Rosecrans was our team's State Runners-up title in 1997. My coaching career provided me with an understanding and appreciation for the work of others. No individual coach can be successful without the support of his players and a trustworthy staff. I am grateful and appreciate the guidance and leadership of those who coached me. I also appreciate the work and dedication of my players and the coaches who were members of my staff. A special thanks to my wife Beth for her support and understanding throughout my coaching career and to Dennis Welch for all his hard work and dedication.

Following my sports playing career, and coaching career, which was for a 25 year period, I am now proud to watch my daughter, Brittany and my son, Daulton share in the same passion and love for sports. My hope is that they will continue to develop their passion and appreciation for sports, and obtain the benefits that can be provided by their participation.

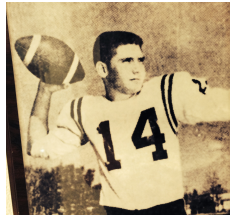


Drew Cannon

Drew Cannon is a 2003 graduate of New Lexington High School, where he was National Honor Society President and senior class Vice-President. While in high school he was a 12-time letter winner, four each in football, basketball and baseball. He was a three time All-MVL selection in football and baseball and an All-MVL selection his senior year in basketball. In baseball he was an All-Southeastern Ohio selection and was able to participate in the District All-Star game.

While having success in all sports, Drew is most known for his accomplishments on the gridiron. He was a captain of the 2001 and 2002 MVL Championship football teams, making the playoffs both years as well. In 2001, Drew set several MVL rushing records, recording 2,275 yards on the ground as well as scoring 36 touchdowns and scoring 259 points. He also recorded 427 yards rushing and 44 points against Morgan, both of which still rank as top 20 single game totals in OHSAA history. Following the season he was named MVL Back of the Year and MVL Player of the Year. He was named a First-Team All-Ohio and First-Team All-Southeastern Ohio running back. He was named Prime-Time Offensive Player of the Year and Fall Athlete of the Year by the Times Recorder. He was nominated as a finalist for Ohio's Mr. Football. In 2002, Drew repeated as MVL Back of the Year and MVL Player of the Year, the only person to do so in MVL history, after rushing for over 1,800 yards and scoring 28 touchdowns. He was again named Prime-Time Offensive Player of the Year and Fall Athlete of the Year. He was named a First-Team All-Ohio running back and was named Southeastern Ohio Offensive Player of the Year. He was again nominated for Ohio's Mr. Football. Following his senior year he was selected to play in the Muskingum Valley/Licking County all-star game and the Ohio North/South game at Crew Stadium, where he was a member of the winning South team. Drew finished his career as the MVL's all-time leading rusher with over 5,000 yards rushing and most prolific scorer with over 70 touchdowns.

After attending the University of Dayton for two years, where he was a member of the baseball team, he transferred to West Liberty State College to resume his football career. In his three years with the Hilltopper football team he was named an All-WVIAC outside linebacker three times. During his senior year of 2007, he was named a team captain and selected first-team All-WVIAC after finishing near the top of the conference in interceptions, tackles for loss, and sacks. He ended his career at West Liberty with seven interceptions, 43 tackles for loss and 17 sacks. He graduated from West Liberty in 2008 with a B.A. degree in Marketing and Management. He is currently in his first year as a law student at West Virginia University, College of Law. He is the son of Kevin and Judy Cannon and is the older brother of current New Lexington quarterback Clint Cannon.



James Lee

James E. Lee III moved to New Lexington in December 1962 in his sophomore year. Like many other families in the area from Kentucky, his father was offered employment in Ohio by Peabody Coal Co. Jimmy had already started playing 1st string quarterback in his freshman and sophomore seasons for his former school at Evarts KY. Jimmy's easy-going manner and flexibility helped him make a major transition in the middle of his high school years. This type of adaptability would serve him well in the not-to-distant future.

Jimmy began his football career at New Lex during the 1963 season under the legendary coach Jim Rockwell. Due to Jimmy's passing ability, the season consisted of half running and half passing. Jimmy completed 98 out of 187 passes for 1455 yards. He passed for 20 touchdowns and made 9 extra points. In the '63 season, the team scored 318 points and held the opposition to only 36 points. The last game of the season was lost – due in part to injuries and sickness among the key players. Jimmy was the Top Offensive Choice in 1963 for both All MVL and All SEO 1st team.

In the 1964 season of Jimmy's senior year, Jimmy passed for 53 out of 91 attempts for 1028 yards. The team gained 2565 yards in 8 games for a 320.6 average – allowing only 861 yards for a 107.6 mark. New Lex was the MVL Champion in 1964 with an 8 – 0 record. Jimmy turned in one of the finest passing performances in the area's football history that year against Crooksville – he connected on 14 of 19 passes for 409 yards, four touchdowns, a pair of conversions, and carried the ball five times for 22 yards. His touchdown passes covered 31, 38, 41 and 51 yards. Jimmy was again Top Offensive Choice in '64 for both All MVL and All SEO 1st team. He also received Honorable Mention All Ohio. Jimmy will tell you that one good player does not make a great team – a great team consists of many good players, and there were many good players on the '63 and '64 teams.

After graduation in 1965, Jimmy went to Eastern KY University to play football and to pursue his dream of coaching young people. He was also in the ROTC program knowing as soon as he graduated, he would be drafted and headed for Vietnam – but fate stepped in. In his junior year at college, Jimmy was a passenger in a tragic car crash. He sustained major head trauma. After months of unconsciousness, he had to learn to walk and talk all over again. The injury impaired his cognitive and motor skills – affecting short-term memory, retention, speech, coordination and balance. This second life changing altercation would test and still tests the spirit of this man.

Jimmy's faith, character, resiliency, and determination are a testament to the cheerful and caring person he is today. Through the past years, Jimmy has been active in church, Jaycees, Elks, and Little League. Almost everyone in New Lex knows Jimmy for his smiles and jovial ways, and until recently, for his daily walks all over town. In the early 90's, Jimmy befriended an elderly man who lived one street over from him. Jimmy stopped by everyday to visit with him. On one of his visits, he found the man had fallen the previous evening, broken his hip, and couldn't get up. He said what kept him going was that he knew Jimmy would stop by the next morning to get help for him. Jimmy said he didn't do anything special – he was just being a friend. If Jimmy's attitude could be summed up it would say: "Life isn't about how to survive the storm, but how to dance in the rain"

Jimmy is the son of the late James and Eula Lee of New Lexington; the brother of Bill (Alois) Moore of Hazard, KY and Sharon (Gene) Dibari of Somerset; and special cousin and friend to Diane Conley of Winter Haven, FL and Edna Reed of New Lexington.