



Viking Alert

The Newsletter of
The North Canton
Alumni Association

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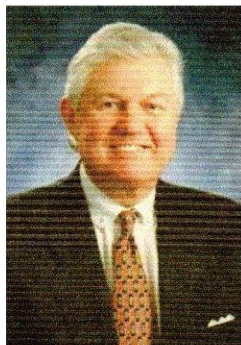
The History of the North Canton Alumni Association.

During the 1989-90 School year the North Canton City Schools celebrated 100 years of public education in New Berlin/North Canton. Out of that celebration, the Hall of Distinction was established and the North Canton Alumni Association was formed.

The Mission Statement of the Association is as follows: " It shall be the mission and purpose of this organization to assist in the enhancement of education and promote a sense of pride for this school system, including academic achievement, athletic excellence and further the memories for all alumni."

The Association initiated its first scholarships in 1995. Since that time, the Alumni Association has awarded scholarships to 105 students in the amount of \$ 52, 500. We constantly encourage Alumni Association members and interested parties to contribute to our scholarship funds. We encourage anyone to make contributions in memory of classmates, former teachers, friends and relatives. All contributors are recognized in our newsletters.

North Canton Alumni Association Past and Current Presidents



Corky
Eck



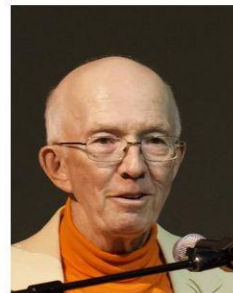
Doug
Froelich



Sarah
Berrey



Debbie
Smith



Bob
Berrodin



Jim
Strauch

Your Alumni Association continues to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Portage building bottom floor. Interested persons are always welcome. We appreciate any ideas or suggestions.

In this issue we'd like to feature brothers Dale and Mark Stevens. Mark and Dale are the sons of Fred and Barbra Stevens , for whom the annual Hoover senior student –athlete memorial scholarship is named. Fred designed the Viking logo in the late 1950's that is still featured.

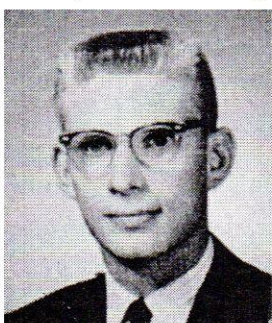
Dale is a 1960 graduate; he was an honor student and earned 11 varsity letters among football, basketball and baseball. Among his teammates were local sports legends Tim Powell and Dick Snyder. As a 15 year old Dale was the then youngest to have played in the Canton Class "A" Baseball League, and as a senior he received All–Ohio recognition for baseball. He was later inducted into the Greater Stark County Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, as his father Fred had been.

The first in his family to attend college, Dale graduated from Colgate University (NY) where he played baseball all four years. He then entered the OSU College of Dentistry, graduating with honors in 1969. Wishing to expand his horizons, he accepted a one year internship in the U.S. Air Force Dental Corps, which ballooned into a 25 year career. He served at nine locations and he earned a master's degree in the specialty of periodontics before retiring as a colonel in 1994. Since then he has been an associate in private practice settings in Tucson, AZ, the latest being that of his dentist wife, Lourdes. Dale has two married sons with Barbara (nee Williams–Hoover High, 1960) Tim, an award winning architect and Rob, an accomplished custom builder. He also has 5 grandchildren and 3 adult step–children. All are active in sports and/or dance.

Mark, too, was an honor student and 3 sport athlete before graduating from Hoover in 1966. He lettered 9 times among football, basketball and baseball, and he was an All–County selection in football in both his junior and senior years. Recruited to play football at Indiana University under head coach and Canton native, John Pont, Mark played 4 years and was a member of the school's only Rose Bowl team in 1967, and graduated with honors. He furthered his education at the OSU College of Medicine and in residency at the Shriner's Hospital of Greenville, SC. Mark then returned to Indiana where he was a partner in Ortho–Indy, a large Indianapolis orthopedic group for 19 years. During that time he was a consultant to DePauw University athletics and associate team physician for the Indiana Pacers and the Indianapolis Indians AAA baseball team, and the Pan Am Games. Mark has married son, with Janis (Lothamer– Hoover 1965) and 2 grandchildren. He resides in Tucson, AZ with his wife Jodi, and continues to love his work in pediatric orthopedics.

Mark's son Brad Stevens has taken the family's passion for sports to a lofty height. He was a star basketball player at Zionsville, IN high school and a 4 year player at DePauw. After a brief stint in the corporate sector, he decided to follow his dream of coaching basketball. He began as a volunteer assistant at Butler University in Indianapolis and ascended through the ranks to become head coach and lead the program to national prominence. Butler beat all odds by reaching the finals of NCAA March Madness 2 consecutive years. Then came the opportunity of a lifetime– the head coach of the Boston Celtics. Now in his 3rd season, Brad has exceeded expectations, and the saga continues.

**Dale
Stevens**



**Mark
Stevens**



**Brad
Stevens**



This is the 17th in a series of articles by local sports historian Jim Holl.

Joseph John Esmont (Joe) Born: October 7, 1908, Youngstown, Ohio.

Died: August 17, 1958, North Canton, Ohio.

Joe Esmont was probably the most underrated coach ever to serve in North Canton High School. Among the last of a dying breed, he coached both football and basketball when Ray Swope, a local legend, moved to Greenville, Ohio in 1942. Often viewed as a war-time fill-in who benefited from athletic talent developed before his arrival, Esmont never fully got the credit he deserved.

Perhaps Joe may have lacked charisma. His laconic, laid back coaching style may have played a part. With his rumpled suits and trademark drab brown overcoat worn on chilly fall afternoons, he didn't fit the mold of a fiery, emotional coach ranting at players and officials alike.

After only a year in town, Esmont found himself as head coach when Swope departed and other coaches were called up for World War II duty. He coached from 1942 to 1946 and was content to step back into a lesser role when others returned after the war, teaching physical education classes and helping other coaches in whatever ways he could. He became the school's first athletic director in 1946, a position he held until ill health forced his early retirement.

Following a standout sports career in basketball and football at Canton McKinley and later at Ohio University, Esmont made a couple of coaching stops before arriving in North Canton in 1941. A year later he was thrust into the head coaching job.

His record speaks for itself. He is the only head coach at North Canton who never experienced a losing season in football or basketball. From 1942 through 1945 his football teams won 26 games, lost 11 and tied one. His 1944 team posted a 7-1-1 record, opening the year with six straight shutouts and allowing a measly 20 points for the entire season. His basketball teams did even better, winning 58 games and losing 11 for a .831 percentage. The 1942-43 team was undefeated during the regular season, losing a heart-breaking 33-31 decision to Lorain in the Class A (large school) district tournament. Many still say it was a team that could have won a state title if the breaks had gone their way.

You can't argue the facts. Joe Esmont was a winner from start to finish.

NEWSLETTER GOING ONLINE !

It costs your Alumni Association several hundred dollars each time we publish a newsletter. Now that we've established our own website, we plan to display the current newsletter on the website and thereby reduce our expenses. We understand that there are those Alumni Association members who do not have access to the Alumni Association web site. For those people who prefer to still receive the newsletter by mail, please contact our President Jim Strauch by phone at (330) 305-9122 or at NorthCantonAlumni@gmail.com.

Therefore, we'll start this process following this Newsletter which is Vol.24Issue 2. So, if you prefer your newsletter by mail, please contact Jim by June 1, 2016. Thanks. We hope the money that we save will allow us to offer more scholarships to Hoover High School students.

The North Canton Alumni Association

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Recent Deaths– Mary Catharine Allen (41), David Ashbaugh (59), Brian Auble (94), David Basinger (51), Reverend Robert Beck (37), Paul John Billman (67), Jeanne (nee Smith) Cheney (44), Debby Define ((71), Ronald Deibel (62), Laura (nee Volkert) Ernst (79), Joseph Gill (40), Earl Halter (52), Thomas Halter (54), Don Hinerman (48), Randy Ingold (65), Pauline (nee Chenot) Jacob (42), Helen Kolp (41), Cynthia (nee Winger) Mather (91), Glenn Royer (39), Forrest Ryan (91), James "Huck" Seemann (49), William Smith (51), Virginia "Ginny" (nee Bushong) Swanson (45), Shawn Texter (85), Vernon Troyer (62), Shirley (nee Eaver) Workinger, Mark Young (78), Former teachers Mel Long and Wayland Reid. Hall of Distinction member Judge W. Don Reader.

Recent Donors– Anonymous \$ 500 donation.

Upcoming Reunions– Save the date, Sat., July 15, 2017 for the 40th Reunion of the Class of 1977. Arrowhead Golf Club– 6:00 to ?. For info contact Tara (Maragas) Hill at (214) 681-8200 or Cindy Spotleson Malcuit (330) 575-0413 or Hoover40Reunion@yahoo.com.

Class of 1976 40th Reunion is Sat., Aug. 13, 2016 at Arrowhead. Also a pre-party Fri., Aug. 12 at Geisen Haus. More info Patty Petroff Gaston, pipgaston@gmail.com, Lisa Warburton-Gregory, lwg@neo.rr.com, Becky Zielasko Mulcahey, bjmulcahey@gmail.com.