



# The Brick & Mortar Board

*the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.*  
[www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org)

Volume 10, Number 1

December, 2020

## Congratulations, Hobart Brickies and Coach Osika!

The Hobart Brickies had a stellar season, advancing to the state finals for the first time since 1996. The Bricks finished the season with an 11-3 record, losing to the Roncalli Rebels in the final game, 49-7. The brackets for Class 4A football, with the scores of all games from the sectionals to the finals, are on the [MaxPreps website](#). See the [Photo Gallery on the NW Indiana Times website](#).

Congratulations to Coach Craig Osika and all the Brickie football players for a job well done!

## Would You Attend a Virtual All-Class Reunion? Take the Survey!



There will NOT be an all-class reunion at The Villages in Florida on February 20, due to the coronavirus pandemic. John Mattix has announced that the in-person reunion is canceled.

However, we are considering a Hobart Brickies Virtual All-Class Reunion on Saturday, February 27, on Zoom. Broadcast from Hobart High School, it would feature greetings, entertainment, and a chance to chat with each other. It would be free, of course, and would likely start at 1:00 Central time and run about an hour.

We need to know if you would attend! Please go to our website to take the ["Virtual All-Class Reunion Survey"](#), and answer a few questions. If you come, we will build it!

### Alumni Spotlight

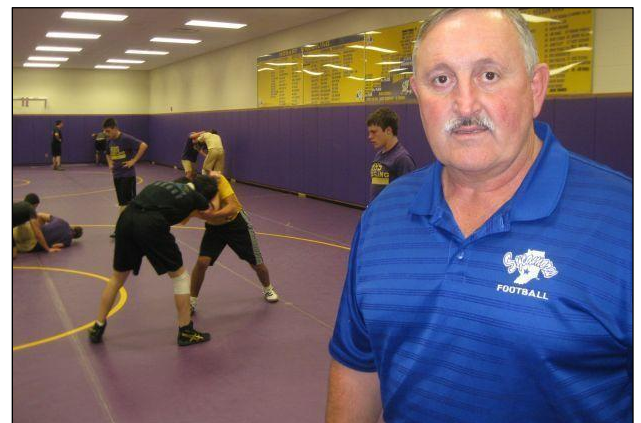
## Steve Balash, "Retired" After 48 Years, But In His 49<sup>th</sup> Year of Coaching Three Sports

Our Alumni Spotlight this month is on Steve Balash, who has recently retired from his teaching position at Hobart High School, but is still coaching at HHS.

*Steve, you announced your retirement this past summer after 48 years of teaching and coaching. So, what are you doing these days?*

I and my wife, help get the grandkids off to school in the morning. We then do house and yard work, and then I go off to practice!

*Could you trace the path from a student at Hobart High School to the present day?*



Coach Steve Balash  
(Photo credit: John Burbridge, NWI Times)

## *Alumni Spotlight (cont.)*

While in high school, I played 3 sports: football, basketball, and track. I also played baseball in the summer. After graduation, I attended Indiana State University on a football scholarship. I played frosh ball my first year going both ways, and played on all specialty teams. I started for 3 years, and was captain my senior year.

I started teaching in 1972 doing Woods, Health, and Physical Education. In my spare time I coached Football, Wrestling, and Track.

In Football, I was on a great staff that earned 11 trips to the state finals, earning 4 state titles! I am in my 49th year of coaching, and we made the state finals for the 12th time!

I have been coaching wrestling for 49 years while being Head Coach for 30 years. My staff and I have had 8 State Champions, and a total of 66 state placers, and or qualifiers.

Finally, I will be in my 49th year coaching track. I mainly coach the throwers. I have been blessed enough to have taken 26 throwers down state! Coaching all three sports keeps me busy!

*What sports were you involved in at Hobart High School, and then at Indiana State?*

Again, I played football (2x all state), top 50 Bloomington Herald top players in the state! I also played basketball. And I threw the shot put, and high jumped in track! I made regionals in high jump as a junior, and in shot put as a senior! I played Football at ISU, and as a frosh I was the most valuable player. I started for three years, and was Captain my senior year!

*Tell us about the experience of being inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2009.*

Hall of Fame: I have been fortunate to be selected to the Football Hall of Fame as a player. It was a great experience, and Honor to have been selected! To go along with that, was also selected to be in the Wrestling Hall of Fame with 8 State Champions, and 66 other wrestlers who made State as a placer, or a qualifier! We had 2 top three finishes in the state, and many other top 10 places.

*What are some of your favorite memories as a coach and teacher?*

Favorite memories: I think I have hundreds of favorite memories! First of all, watching kids grow and get better at what they are doing. It might be watching kids have fun in gym class, or having them make neat project in Woods class! Having former students come back and tell you that you were a great influence on their life always gets to me! As a Coach, all the times the kids take you to a state event! I have been blessed having gone to 51 state events in my career! This one is silly, but one time under Coach Howell we were having a bad practice. Nothing was going right when a player found an arrow on the field. He broke it in half and stuck it in each ear hole. Coach broke out laughing and we had a good practice after that!

*Were there any teachers or coaches at Hobart, when you were a student, who had a particular influence on the direction of your life and career?*

I had so many great teachers, and coaches when I was in high school. My first was Mr. Greenberg. He started me on a journey of knowledge, and sports! Then, there was Mr. Throne. A very kind and gentle man that always made you feel special.

Then, I had Mr. Kerr, and Mr. Johnston in Jr. High basketball. Two great coaches that taught you the game, and also got the most out of you! They both moved up and were my high school coaches! Next came Coach Howell and Coach Deal. They were my Football coaches. They were both hard nosed, but fair men that made you the best you could be. They were all great role models, who became my good friends. Last, Don Rogers coached with me since 1987. He and I have been like brothers for all the time we spent together. All of these people have made me whom I am today!

*What advice do you have for high school students today who are thinking of making athletics their career, in playing or coaching?*

If you are in teaching, you are not in it for the money! You do it for the love of the kids you teach! To see them improve is the greatest gift of all!

# Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

We want to hear your stories about your time at Hobart High School. If you remember any of these things, or if you have your own stories to share, send them to me (Paul Addison) at [paul@hobartalumni.org](mailto:paul@hobartalumni.org), and we'll add your story to the conversation!

## RESPONSES TO: HHS Band

**From Bob McOmber** (Class of 1969): My father, Homer McOmber, played in the HHS band under Mr. Revelli. I am told my dad played the french horn. My father had an unfortunate accident in junior high school that resulted in one of his legs being amputated. My father was, I think, 20 years old (maybe 21) when he graduated from high school. I assume that his health difficulties probably caused him to miss a couple of years of school. Also, my dad passed away when he was only 40 years old (I was 5) so I never had the chance to talk to him about this.

I was told that after leaving Hobart, Mr. Revelli once brought the University of Michigan band to Hobart for a concert. After the concert, my mom and dad stood in a receiving line to speak to Mr. Revelli. When they got to the front of the line, my dad asked Mr. Revelli if he remembered him. Revelli immediately responded, "Of course, you're the french horn player with one leg."

## RESPONSES TO: Tattoos

**From David Pangburn** (Class of 1958): A few years back, I researched this matter, mainly because nobody here in the Pacific Northwest had ever heard of it. Unfortunately, I was absent from school the day that the tattoos were given and so I had no physical proof. My two brothers and my sister have the blood type tattoos on their sides.

My research was done for a short memoir that I had written and presented in a Memoir Writing Class. I am attaching the memoir that I wrote. Maybe this will help clear up any confusion. [Click here to read the complete memoir: Atomic Tattoo.](#)

## DO YOU REMEMBER? Victory Bell

**From Lyle Hatten** (Class of 1958): This story takes place in the late 50's. When Hobart would win a home game, the high school would be left unlocked with the lights on allowing students to enter and climb the narrow wooden steps into the bell tower. When the kids reached the bell, they would ring it for 3 to 5 minutes using the old steel bell ringer. I was up there twice during the basketball seasons. Anyone remembering ringing or assisting ringing the bell? This bell now stands at the Brickyard football stadium.



Another victory and the victory bell is rung by Barbara Gisman, Barbara Bergeson, Judy Mohr, Carmen Montes, vice-president of Booster Club, Judy Sotak, Mary Lee Phillips, Booster club president, Cleo Cape, treasurer, and Connie Clingan, secretary.

### HOW FAST CAN YOU STOP YOUR CAR?

A scientific table has been compiled that shows how far your car travels after you spot an oncoming car, and the time it takes to step on the brake. Then it shows you the distance your car travels after you step on the brake and the total distance your car traveled till it comes to a complete stop. If your nerves are normal and you do not panic, if the ground is dry and your brakes are in good condition, the figures of this table apply.

| miles per hour | Distance between impulse and brake response | Distance after the brake was applied | total distance |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 20             | 22'   | 30.0'                                | 52.0'          |
| 30             | 33' you see the                             | 67.5'                                | 100.5'         |
| 40             | 44' oncoming car                            | 120.0'                               | 164.0'         |
| 50             | 55' to the time                             | 187.5'                               | 242.5'         |
| 60             | 66' you apply                               | 270.0'                               | 336.0'         |
| 70             | 77' the brake                               | 367.5'                               | 444.5'         |
| 80             | 88'   | 480.0'                               | 568.0'         |

## DO YOU REMEMBER? School-Sponsored Driving Event

**From Lyle Hatten** (Class of 1958): During the high school year of 1957-1958, the state of Indiana sponsored a driving event along with the cooperation of Hobart High School and the Police Department. It took place on Center Street between 4th and 6th Streets, which were all blocked off. This event was to show young drivers the time response and distance it takes to stop a moving vehicle. The entire high school student population lined up on each side of Center Street, and two volunteer students were selected to take this test. The results were announced over the P.A. to the students for each test. The female won the time response part of the test, and the male won the distance part of the test. Who can remember seeing this event and the names of the student drivers?

# HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors (as of July 1, 2020) are:

## OFFICERS

Paul Addison, Class of 1970 .....*President*  
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966 .....*Vice-President*  
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970 .....*Treasurer*  
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978..... *Secretary*

## AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Craig Osika, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*  
Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970  
Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971

## STUDENT MEMBERS

Adam Barney, Class of 2021

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hobart High School Alumni Association is to develop and maintain a close relationship between Hobart High School, its constituents, and its alumni for their mutual benefit. The Association is committed to, and involved in the support and well-being of Hobart High School and its alumni.

## OUR GOALS

- To assist Hobart High School in communication with its alumni
- To convey to Hobart High School the views, attitudes, and needs of the alumni in seeking to preserve, advocate, and promote alumni interests
- To strengthen alumni activities and programs
- To support educational programs through teacher grants and student scholarships

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## Our Supporters



### **LIFETIME MEMBERS (since our August newsletter):**

Christy Mathis Cirino (1976)

### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

David (1969) and Mary Jordan

Darrell (1966) and Sherry Murphy

Joe (1977) and Tracy (1978) McCullough: In Memory of Jim Lake (1961)

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## An HHSAA Membership Makes a Great Christmas Gift!

Wondering what to give the special Brickies in your family? Please consider a membership to the Hobart High School Alumni Association. We promote alumni activities, including class reunions, feature HHS alumni, and provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Annual memberships are \$10, and life memberships are \$100. See the membership form on the last page of this newsletter, and thank you!



## Class Reunion Roundup

Here is the current list of upcoming class and all-class reunions, listed in order of occurrence. If your class is having a reunion, send the information to us at [info@hobartalumni.org](mailto:info@hobartalumni.org), and we will publicize it on our website and in our newsletter! More information can be found on the [HHS Alumni Association website](#).

### **CLASS OF 1965 55th REUNION** (August 21, 2021)

Barb Phillips Rowley of the HHS Class of 1965 has informed us that their reunion has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 21, 2021. Contact Barb at [mnbrowley@msn.com](mailto:mnbrowley@msn.com).

### **CLASS OF 1970 50th REUNION** (September 25, 2021)

Beth Scott Barney of the HHS Class of 1970 has informed us that their reunion has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2021, at St. Mary Orthodox Center, 8600 Grand Blvd., Merrillville, IN 46410. Ticket cost is \$45 per person, \$80 per couple. Contact Beth Barney at: [bethbarney1103@gmail.com](mailto:bethbarney1103@gmail.com) for more information.

### **REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:**

If your class is meeting regularly these days, please email [info@hobartalumni.org](mailto:info@hobartalumni.org) with the details.

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### 100 Years Ago

## From the 1920 Aurora HHS Yearbook

Here's a little poem from the 1920 Hobart High School yearbook, *The Aurora*, dedicated to the senior class. It seems appropriate now.

The Lake County Public Library had nearly all the yearbook of the past 100+ years digitized, and they are all available on our website, at <http://www.hobartalumni.org/HHS-Yearbooks-Online.htm>.

#### TO THE SENIORS.

The easy roads are crowded,  
And the level roads are jammed;  
The pleasant little rivers  
With drifting folks are crammed.

But off yonder where it's rocky  
Where you get a better view,  
You will find the ranks are thinning  
And the travelers are few.

Where the going's smooth and pleasant  
You will always find the throng,  
For the many, more's the pity,  
Seem to like to drift along.

But the steeps that call for courage,  
And the task that's hard to do,  
In the end result in glory  
For the never wavering few.

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## HHSAA Website to Become Mobile-Friendly



Many people are using [only their smartphones](#) these days to access the Internet, and that number is growing. A few years ago, we conducted a survey on our website. Over 80% of people responding said they already use a smartphone to access the Internet, and over 90% said they would not mind a few changes if we made the site more friendly to mobile device users. Right now, it is hard to view our website on a phone.

So, after the first of the year, our site will be much easier to read on a smartphone. There will be a few small changes when you view it on a regular desktop computer or tablet. Mainly, the site will adapt to the size of the device it is being viewed on. Those changes will be described on the website before they go into effect. And if you use your phone to access the Internet, we think you'll love the changes!

*The Brick & Mortar Board* is a publication of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is an electronic publication, delivered by email to members of the Association. Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership, and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to: **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342. Our website is: [www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org). The editor of *The Brick & Mortar Board* is Paul Addison.

# Recent Obituaries

(since our August 2020 newsletter;  
in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

## DECEMBER 2020:

[Ivor Coons, Class of 1966](#)

[Sherry Williams, Principal](#)

[Richard \(Rick\) Stephens, Class of 1962](#)

[Tracy Rogula, Class of 1990](#)

[Barbara Kane Kurth, Class of 1955](#)

[Bruce Phillips, Class of 1958](#)

## NOVEMBER 2020:

[James \(Jim\) Spence, Class of 1989](#)

[John Uhles, Class of 1953](#)

[Michael \(Mike\) Kovacic, Class of 1965](#)

[Anthony \(Tony\) Kaminski, Class of 1978](#)

[Ruth Ann Batey, Class of 1988](#)

[Carol Mikolajczak Evans, Class of 1963](#)

[James \(Jim\) McLuckie, Class of 1947](#)

[Caleb Crayton, Class of 2021](#)

## OCTOBER 2020:

[Paul James, Class of 1958](#)

[Charlyn Moore, Class of 1959](#)

[Sue Krulik Vespo Williams, Class of 1968](#)

[Marshall Barber, Class of 1982](#)

[Edward Erbe Jr., Class of 1959](#)

## SEPTEMBER 2020:

[Juanita Arreola Ramirez, Class of 1969](#)

[Chuck Whelan, Class of 1969](#)

[Richard Sapper, II, Class of 1993](#)

[Judith \(Judy\) Brishky Pierce, Class of 1958](#)

[Rosemary Petrovich \(Teacher\)](#)

[Larry Hummel, Class of 1965](#)

[Darlene Paul Lake, Class of 1958](#)

[Theodore \(Ted\) Schroeder, Class of 1987](#)

[Charles \(Chuck\) Horn, Class of 1972](#)

## AUGUST 2020:

[Linda Clingan Gavelek, Class of 1960](#)

[Chris Springman, Class of 1955](#)

[Robert Randall "Randy" Carlson, Class of 1968](#)

[Ronald Miles, Class of 1957](#)

[Colin Stoops, Class of 2000](#)

[Jim \(JJ\) Johnston, Class of 1954](#)

[Fred LaLonde, Class of 1962](#)

[Stella "Mary" Cicak Draves, Class of 1964](#)

[Mary Kay Netzhammer Phillips, Class of 1959](#)

## OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED:

### JULY 2020:

[Keith Kennett, Class of 1964](#)

### JUNE 2020:

[Cynthia \(Cindy\) Gospodarek, Class of 1975](#)

[Don Welton, Class of 1976](#)

### 2019 (MONTH UNKNOWN):

[David Olovich, Class of 1965](#)

### NOVEMBER 2019:

[Louis "Frank" Donaldson, Class of 1967](#)

### MAY 2018:

[Richard \(Rick\) Forrest, Class of 1985](#)



## Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Membership is \$10 per year per person, or \$100 per person for a Life Membership  
(proceeds go towards student scholarships and teacher grants)

Check one: New member \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_

Check one: 1-year membership (\$10) \_\_\_\_ Lifetime membership (\$100) \_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name (in high school) \_\_\_\_\_

Married Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your class graduating year at HHS \_\_\_\_\_

*(Renewing members only need to fill out the following if anything has changed)*

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

***"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"***  
**Thank you for your support!**

**Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association**

**Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342**

**Our website is: [www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org)**