



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.
www.hobartalumni.org

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November, 2017

Paul Throne Honored at Football Game and BrickieFest Picnic

Longtime Hobart coach and guidance counselor Paul Throne and his wife Ruth announced recently that they would be moving to Florida. Coach Throne was recognized at the Friday night football game on September 23, and at the BrickieFest Picnic on Saturday, September 23. Many Hobart High School alumni, including members of the Class of 1967 celebrating their 50th year reunion, attended the BrickieFest Picnic to say farewell to the Thrones.



Left: Dr. Cindy Reynolds, with Paul and Ruth Throne at the First United Methodist Church.



Right: Hobart High School alumni meet at the 2017 BrickieFest Picnic

(more pictures on page 7)

Alumni Return on Homecoming Weekend for the Alumni Band Concert

(story on page 5)

A New Page on Our Website: Class Reunion Photos

The HHS Alumni Association website, www.hobartalumni.org, now has a page called "Class Reunion Photos". We'll post one picture per reunion, and up to 12 pictures for any graduating class. They should be at least 600 pixels wide. Send them to: info@hobartalumni.org as an email attachment, and describe the picture in the email, including the class year and the year of the reunion. Thanks!

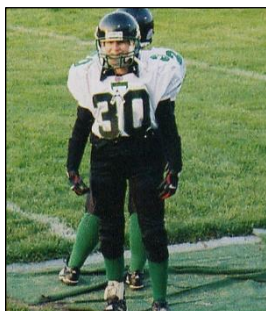
Alumni Spotlight

Tammy Wagner-Duncan, Professional Female Athlete

Tammy Wagner-Duncan, Class of 1978, has been an athlete since junior high school, and has played volleyball, track and field, golf, softball, basketball, professional football, and more.

Tammy talks about her varied athletic career, and has advice for young women and men who are interested in sports. She referred to our interview as "Reflections of a Saberkat".

(continued on page 2)



Alumni Spotlight (continued)



Tammy Wagner-Duncan

What are you doing these days, and where do you live?

I recently returned to the Indianapolis area after relocating to North Fort Myers, Florida, three years ago. Prior to that time, I resided in Fishers, Indiana, for two decades. After I

married, my husband and I moved to SW Florida when we decided we'd had enough of the Indiana cold and snow. Although living in SW Florida affords sports enthusiasts like myself year-round softball, golf, etc., I missed the Hoosier state. After three years we decided we missed home, and plans to return to Fishers were set in motion. While residing in Florida, I worked as Social Service Director for a skilled nursing facility. Most recently, I served as a Support Coordinator & Intake Specialist for the state of Florida's Medicaid Waiver Program serving special needs populations. However, the most challenging position I faced in Florida was acting as an Activity Therapist for offenders sentenced to the Florida Department of Correction. By days I was a civil servant and, four evenings a week, I was on the ball field. Needless to say, my passion for softball has never died. Also, while in Florida, I became a NASM (i.e., the National Academy of Sports Medicine) Certified Personal Trainer.

What sports were you involved with at Hobart High School?

In junior high school, I played volleyball and participated in track & field. However, it wasn't until the 9th grade that I found a sport I really loved – basketball. I played varsity basketball three years (four, if including the 9th grade) in high school and served as team captain my senior year. I was also a member of the girls' varsity golf team my junior year. Although I enjoyed the golfing experience and learned the fundamentals of the sport, I also realized that my athletic skills were best showcased on the basketball court. Certainly, softball would have trumped basketball, however, at this time in the history of athletics at HHS, there was no girls' softball. As such, most girls, including myself, fulfilled their desire to play this sport by joining the girls' city league (United Girls Softball, Incorporated.) The nineteen seventies

were a unique time for female athletes, as girls' school athletic programs were just in their infancy. In fact, I believe my freshman year (9th grade) was the first year, ever, that a girls' basketball team even existed. It was unfortunate that athletic opportunities for girls during this period were minimal. A young female athlete didn't even think about trying out for a boys' team back then, even though many of us were just as talented as our male counterparts. The best one could do was hang out at the local park and hope that by shagging balls, the little league boys would allow that kid to practice with them. That's what I did. To actually play an organized Little League game on a boys team wasn't popular back in the day. I also remember the reaction of others when I wanted to spend seventh grade activity period lifting weights. "You want to do what?" "That's a boys' activity." Apparently, society in general, and HJHS, in particular, wasn't ready to challenge long-held stereotypes that sports are for boys only. I guess I was just ahead of the times.

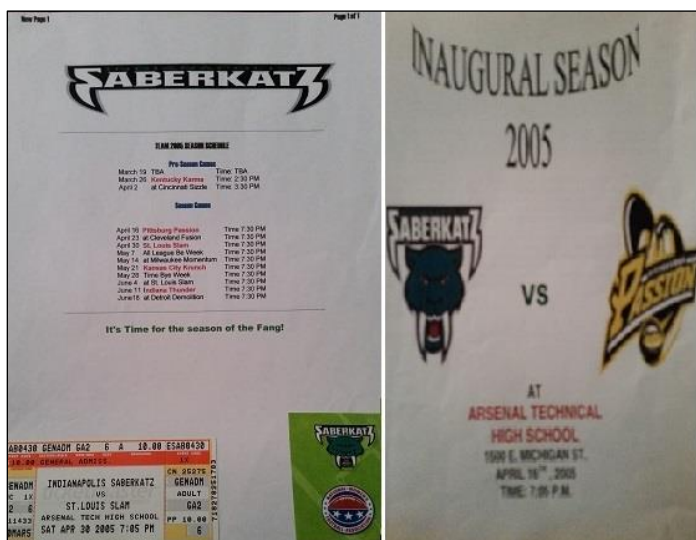
Could you trace the path from HHS to where you are now?

Following high school graduation, I headed south to Indiana University to begin my freshman year of college. However, the party bug put an end to my short-lived college experience and I returned home. For the next few years, I worked full-time and played plenty of softball. Finally, I decided I better get serious about my education. While working full time in Gary, Indiana, I was also taking a few courses at IUN (Indiana University Northwest). Eventually, I abandoned my full-time job and returned to IU/Bloomington as a full-time student. In 1984, I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in Psychology and Sociology. The only regret I have during my college years was not playing college ball (i.e.-basketball, softball). It never occurred to me to try out for those teams as a walk-on. There is a lesson learned here. That is, ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR PASSION AND BELIEVE IN YOURSELF! This is the message I have for any young athlete, female or male. Pursue your athletic dreams and let your talent guide you.



SaberKatz Field in Indianapolis

Alumni Spotlight (continued)



Some Saberkatz memorabilia

Following college graduation, I moved to Indianapolis and worked there until I accepted a position at a state developmental center in South Bend, Indiana. For a brief time, I also lived in Niles, Michigan. However, Indiana kept calling me back and I returned to Indianapolis. Now that I had clinical experience under my belt, I was ready for my next career move. That took me to Dayton, Ohio, where I worked as a Behavior Consultant for the Montgomery County Board of DD/ID. I also started working on a Master's degree; however, that pursuit never came to fruition. While in Dayton, I remained active playing softball and also coached a girls' 5th grade basketball team. I remained in Ohio until a family member became ill, necessitating a return to Indiana in 1994. Once back in the Hoosier state I decided to stay – for a while. I built a home in Fishers, Indiana, and remained there for the next twenty years.

It wasn't until the latter part of my career, while working as a Social Service Director in the Indianapolis area, that I met my husband. At that time, we both were caring for aging parents, but we managed to vacation every year in Florida. The thought of moving to someplace warm was appealing to both of us and we weren't getting any younger. We decided to sell our respective homes, moved to Southwest Florida settling in North Fort Myers. We found Florida's warmth and sunshine appealing – initially. Three years later I had enough of the HOT and HUMID summers, the rain and the hurricanes. Living in Indiana we were used to the possibility of tornadoes, but we never really thought about hurricanes. That is, until we had to evacuate from Hurricane Irma. I have never experienced a Florida hurricane evacuation. I certainly never witnessed the endless stream of red taillights filling

every single lane of the interstate, including the shoulder. Not to mention the inability to find gas ANYWHERE. It's an experience that one doesn't want to repeat. It was enough for me – back to Indiana, and here I am.

What was it like to play professional football, and are there still opportunities for women football players?

While living in Fishers, I saw an article in The Indianapolis Star about a local women's football team. What? Football? For women? For real? A friend of mine encouraged me to try-out for the team. "Are you crazy, I am 45 years old!" This time, unlike college, I wasn't going to let this opportunity pass by me. Age is just a number, right? And so it was. In 2005 I tried out for the Indianapolis Saberkatz, made the team and earned the privilege to play Defensive Back. Historically, in July 2004 the Indianapolis Saberkatz was granted a license from the National Women's Football Association (formerly named the National Women's Football League) and was one of 36 teams comprising the league. The following year, in 2005, the NWFA was in its fifth season, and the Saberkatz was organized as an expansion team by co-owners K. C. and Teresa Carter. Previous Indianapolis teams included the Vipers, the Indiana Speed, and the Indianapolis Chaos. However, these teams eventually disbanded and joined other teams sharing the same fate. Funding and sponsorship is a crucial component for any team to succeed in the NWFA. That is the difficult part. Each female player is responsible for procuring her own sponsor(s). The funding collected through sponsors dictate player's salaries. If a player obtains enough sponsors, she keeps her uniform and receives a paycheck from the organization. Anyone who has ever played organized sports, or has a child that has played, knows that the cost of equipment, travel, and lodging is expensive.

It takes an incredible amount of effort and commitment to obtain funds. Keep in mind that team members were playing football in addition to holding full-time jobs and managing families. Many weekends were spent traveling on the road in our own personal vehicles, and players assumed all costs (i.e.-gas, meals, hotels, etc.). Some teams in the league established partnerships with their respective NFL teams (for example, the Pittsburgh Passion received support from the Pittsburgh Steelers). These teams were easily identified as they always arrived at games in big team buses and sported the best-looking uniforms. Their fans were loyal and filled the stands.

In its inaugural year, the Indianapolis Saberkatz played three preseason games with a ten-game regular

Alumni Spotlight (continued)

season. Unfortunately, the team had a difficult inaugural year, consistently losing games. However, despite a losing season, I wouldn't have traded the experience for anything. I absolutely loved being out on the field with other female athletes (many at least 20 years my junior) who shared a passion for the game. I only wish I would have heard about the league earlier (the NWFA was originally founded by Catherine Masters in 2000). Unfortunately, the Saberkatz team found it difficult to maintain the financial support needed to continue and the team was not able to maintain itself. It, like its predecessors, disbanded. However, despite its demise, I will always look back on my year playing professional football as one of the highlights of my athletic career. Since its founding in 2000, the league has undergone several changes. Most notably, and following a dispute with the NFL

(National Football League), in 2002 the National Women's Football League was changed to the National Women's Football Association. Subsequently, there have been additional splits from the NWFA. Currently, the two other spin-off leagues are the and the Independent Women's Football League (IWFL) and the WSFL (Women's Spring Football League). Additional information about these leagues can be found online by entering either in your computer's search engine. Most definitely, women's professional football is alive and well.

So, what sort of advice does a former female football player have for young female athletes thinking of pursuing professional sports as a career? Go for it! Do not let ANYTHING, OR ANYONE, stop you from pursuing your dream! Have no regrets. Believe in yourself and surround yourself with individuals who support you. Follow your passion!

Class Reunion Roundup

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

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN LAKE LAND, FLORIDA (February 10, 2018)

John Mattix has announced that the Hobart High School All-Class Reunion will be on February 10, 2018, at the same place it has been held the last few years, the Huntington Hills Country Club, 2626 Duff Road, Lakeland, Florida. Cash bar begins at 11:30 am, with lunch and entertainment starting at 12:30. Hobart Brickies of all ages are invited! The cost is \$25 per person, and you can make your reservations now! Make your check out to John Mattix, and mail it to him at 1678 Govan Place, The Villages, FL 32162.

CLASS OF 1978 40th REUNION (September 29, 2018)

The Class of 1978 will be holding their 40th class reunion on September 29, 2018, at the Moose Lodge at 5:00. Planning meetings are under way with the next one being held at the Moose Lodge on August 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Classmates interested in planning the reunion are welcome to attend. Kristy Rosenbaum is the contact person for the class and questions can be emailed to her at lkcrose@comcast.net.

REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

CLASS OF 1956: We meet on the last Saturday of every month at 9:00 am, at the Paragon Restaurant. Contact Mary Jo Hopkins at mjhoppy@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1958: We have a luncheon on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road in Hobart at 1:00 PM. Hope to see more HHS1958 alumni there. Contact Larry Koziol at lkoziol@ameritech.net.

CLASS OF 1960: We have a luncheon on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road in Hobart at 1:00PM. Hope to see more HHS1960 alumni join us. Contact Linda Quinlan Koziol at lkoziol@ameritech.net.

CLASS OF 1964: We have a breakfast brunch on the second Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 E. Old Ridge Road in Hobart, from 11am to 1pm. Hope to see more 1964 alumni there. Contact Marsha Longacre Shabi at marbi22@juno.com.

Alumni Return on Homecoming Weekend to Play in the Alumni Band Concert



Band alumni Jim Kursch and Tom Ford



Linda and Greg Heuer, Les Brooks, Sue Thompson Miller and Carol Worthington Schickel

Over a dozen alumni of the Hobart High School Bands program returned to Hobart on Saturday, October 7, to play in the Alumni Band Concert, which commemorated the 50th anniversary of the band's performance at the Midwest Band Clinic. On December 15, 1967, the HHS band was led at the Midwest concert by directors Alvin Rogers and Ray Grivetti, with guest appearances by former directors William Revelli and Fred Ebbs.

The band, supplemented by current HHS band members, played two numbers from the Midwest concert, the "Walt Disney Overture" (conducted by Paul Addison) and "Third Suite" (conducted by HHS Band Director Brian Grenier).

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. The editor of *The Brick & Mortar Board* is Paul Addison.

More Pictures from BrickieFest Picnic 2017



Hobart High School Alumni at the 2017 BrickieFest Picnic
Left: Debra Broker Opolski (1970), Holli Smith Kostbade (1998)
Center: Diane Kursch Voglund (1967), Lynn Hasza Heintz (1967), Lynn Sheets Kostbade (1966)
Right: Peggy Dubach (1967), Paul Addison (1970)

Recent Obituaries (since our September 2017 newsletter; in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

OCTOBER 2017:

[Janet Erwin Bechler, Class of 1956](#)

[Kelsey Mireles McKinney, Class of 2010](#)

[Susan Sobczak Fleming, Class of 1982](#)

SEPTEMBER 2017:

[Sharon Campbell Zimny, Class of 1961](#)

[Joel Pence, Class of 1971](#)

[Cindy Willmoth Macomber, Class of 1970](#)

[Jackie Schmelter, Class of 1982](#)

[Dan Bombarg, Class of 1976](#)

JANUARY 2017:

[Dale Catt, Class of 1957](#)

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

Our Supporters

The HHS Alumni Association is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, and our entire financial support comes from membership dues and contributions. We recognize our supporters by listing the names (not the amounts) of those who have contributed to HHSAA, including memorials, donations, and new and renewed members. Membership in the HHS Alumni Association is \$10 per year, and life memberships are \$100.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (since our September 2017 newsletter)

ANNUAL MEMBERS

Lynn Eikenbary (1963)

Judith Hood (1960)

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 are:

OFFICERS

Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998..... *President*
Paul Addison, Class of 1970..... *Vice-President*
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970..... *Treasurer*
Lynn Hasza-Heintz, Class of 1967..... *Recording Secretary*
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978..... *Corresponding Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Tracy Brumley, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*

Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966

STUDENT MEMBERS

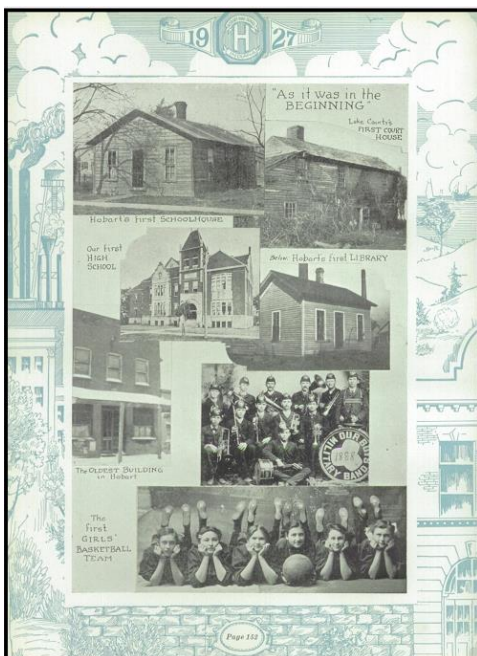
Danielle Hill, Class of 2018

Cade Brumley, Class of 2018

Lillian Kollross, Class of 2019

James Corgan, Class of 2019

From the 1927 HHS *Aurora* Yearbook, 90 Years Ago



The 1920s was a decade known for its economic growth, and generally a fun time for the U.S., following World War I and preceding the Great Depression, which began with the stock market crash of October 1929.

The 1927 Hobart High School yearbook, the *Aurora*, had a page that recapped some of the history of Hobart and its high school. It includes Hobart's first schoolhouse, Lake County's first courthouse, the first high school building, Hobart's first library, the oldest building in Hobart, a military band from 1888, and the first girls' basketball team [see our *Alumni Spotlight* feature; the sport was obviously discontinued].

During the depression, from the early 1930s through the early 1940s, the high school did not publish any yearbooks, but instead, compiled the issues of the school newspaper, the *Ho-Hi-Life*. In 1944, the yearbook, still called the *Aurora*, was brought back. The 1947 yearbook, published the year of Hobart's centennial, was the first to be titled *Memories*.

Nearly all of the Hobart High School yearbooks from 1908 through 2011, have been digitized and made available by the Lake County Public Library, and we have the links to them on our website at <http://www.hobartalumni.org/HHS-Yearbooks-Online.htm>.



Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

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!

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

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

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

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org