

DR. GARY CANNER

Since 1979, Dr. Canner has been the Wilson football team physician. Dr. Canner has attended both home and away games as well as playoff games during that time span and has done so at no expense to the Wilson School District. Due to Dr. Canner's reputation as an orthopedic doctor, his advice has been sought by Wilson athletes and coaches as well as athletes and coaches around Berks County. He is an integral part of the Wilson sports community. Dr. Canner is a member of the Wilson Football Century Club and has become a member of the BCIAA Gold Leaf Club recognizing his volunteerism at Wilson.

SYLVESTER COMPARINI

Syl graduated from Reading High School in 1941 where he was an outstanding football and baseball player. After graduation he joined the U.S. Marines and served our country proudly at the Battle of Guadalcanal and was a highly decorated veteran including the Purple Heart. After returning from the war he played baseball for many Reading and Berks County teams and had a try-out with the St. Louis Cardinals. After settling into Spring Township, Syl started a 50 year plus association with Wilson and Spring Township sports. In the 1960's he was among the organizers of the Lincoln Park youth baseball and football organizations and was on the committee that brought Coach John Gurski to Wilson in 1964. He was also one of the founders of the Wilson Boosters Club. For the next 30 years, Syl was highly involved in our football program as a volunteer assistant coach under Coach Gurski and Coach Slemmer. In 1986, he was named Wilson's Equipment Manager and held that position for another 12 years. Syl was a great motivator for all of our student athletes and a close confidant and friend of Coach Gurski. Syl, at age 92, can still be found on the sidelines of Wilson football games.

BARBARA HECKMAN

Barbara Ann Eckenroth Heckman graduated from Mohnton High School in 1951. During her high school career she played volleyball, field hockey and basketball. She graduated from West Chester State College in 1955 with a BS in Physical Education. She immediately began her teaching career at Cocalico High School instructing PE and health classes. Barbara coached the girls' volleyball, basketball and field hockey teams. In 1956, she married Walter (Buddy) Heckman and began her lifelong love of golf. Until the summer of 2013, she played in many golf leagues in Pennsylvania including the Berks and Central Penn Leagues. She achieved 5 hole-in-ones during her golfing career, along with many low net in her flights. She played almost daily at the Manor Golf Course or Reading Country Club. From 1970 until her passing in 2013 Barbara was a long-term substitute teacher teaching almost daily at Cocalico and Wilson High Schools. She faithfully attended Wilson sporting events, especially football and girls' basketball games. She was the manager for the girls' basketball team for many years. Barbara was a Bulldog to the core.

CHAD HENNE

Class of 2004

Chad was a 4 year varsity starter in football and won All-American Honors his senior year. He set Wilson and PA records for most yards passing in a career and accepted a full scholarship to the University of Michigan to play football. Chad also played varsity basketball for 3 years and ran track where he was state runner-up in the javelin, 4th in the 4x100 meter relay and county champ in shot put. He was a 4 year starter at QB at Michigan where he was named MVP of the Capital One Bowl and MVP of the Senior Bowl. Chad was a second round draft pick and played QB for the Miami Dolphins where he was named Captain in 2011. In 2014, he was named the starting QB and team captain for the Jacksonville Jaguars. From 2008 through 2014, Chad passed for over 12,000 yards as a pro football player.

KRISTI KAUFFMAN

Class of 1993

Kristi received a total of 10 Varsity Letters while at Wilson. She earned 3 of her letters as a Fall Athletic Trainer (1991-1993). She was a 4 year starter on the Varsity Basketball team averaging 10.8 ppg in her career. She was named 2nd team All-County and 1st team All-Division her junior year and 2nd team All-Division her senior year averaging 13.8 ppg. She played goalkeeper on the Varsity Soccer team which won the Berks County Championship from 1991-1993, District Runner-Up in 1992, and District Champions and State Runner-Up in 1993. Kristi was named the Outstanding Female Athlete in 1993. She went on to play both basketball and soccer at Salisbury State University. She played 3 years of basketball at Salisbury State receiving Rookie of the Week honors several times her freshman year and starting both her freshman and sophomore years. She also played 3 years of soccer as goalkeeper. She received 2nd Team All-Conference honors in 1995 and 1st Team All-Conference honors as well as All Mid-Atlantic Regional Team honors in 1996 and 1997.

GEORGE MACK

After graduating from Mount Penn High School, George enlisted in the Army and spent two years on active duty. He entered the Army Reserves and rose through the ranks to command the 6th-68 Tank Battalion. He retired as a full colonel. George graduated from Albright College, where he was president of his fraternity. He excelled at cross-country and track and field and later coached cross country at Albright. He worked in accounting, computer information and purchasing at AT&T and Lucent Technologies. He was a member of the National Ski Patrol, and served as a board member and president of the Flying Dutchmen Ski Club. He also served as a board member of Crime Alert Berks receiving the organization's President's Award in 2012. He was a member of the Leadership Committee of the West Lawn United Methodist Church. George spent his retirement years in service, volunteerism and commitment to the community. He served as a member of the Wilson School Board for 14 years, serving as president for four years. He was board treasurer, the chairperson of the extracurricular committee, a member of the facilities committee and a member of the Wilson Education Foundation. George was also an honorary member of the Wilson Century Club. In 2013, the members of the Wilson School Board voted to name the district's new multipurpose stadium, the George Mack Stadium, in honor of George's commitment and dedication to the Wilson School District.

THOMAS "RUDY" RUTH

Rudy came to Wilson in 1982 as a health and physical education teacher at Central Junior High and began coaching immediately. During his career at Wilson, Rudy has coached age group swimming (one year), varsity swimming (six years), high school & junior high wrestling (ten years) and water polo (25+ years in different capacities). He has coached nine water polo state championship teams, four Eastern High School Championship teams and has coached more than thirty water polo All-Americans. Additionally, he is the founder and commissioner of the Pennsylvania High School Water Polo Association, was the 1992 United States Water Polo Coach of the Year and the 2010 United States Water Polo National Coach of the Year. In 2009, Dr. Ruth was named the Superintendent of Schools for the Wilson School District.

HAROLD SLEMMER

Class of 1970

Dr. Slemmer lettered in 3 sports including football (1968, 1969), wrestling (1968, 1969) & track (1968, 1969 and 1970). As a member of the undefeated varsity football team in 1969, he was selected 1st team All-Conference & All-County Center. As a wrestler at the 180lb weight class in 1969-70, he finished with 17 wins & just 2 losses. In track, he was the Berks County Discus Champion in 1970. Awarded a full scholarship to Arizona State University, Dr. Slemmer was a member of two nationally ranked DI teams in 1972 and 1973. He was the starting right tackle for ASU in 1974, named player of the game vs. Colorado State and selected 1st Team Academic All-Conference. He earned multiple degrees at ASU, including his BA (1975), MS (1977) and Ed.D. (1986). He has served as the Director of the Arizona Interscholastic Association for the past 15 years. Since 2001 he has delivered speeches and workshops 54 times in 19 states, served on the NFHS Football Rules Committee (2000-07), served on the on the NFHS Board of Directors (2011-2014), and was President of the NFHS Board of Directors (2013-2014).