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CHICAGO CATHOLIC LEAGUE  
EST. 1912  
COACHES ASSOCIATION



62ND ANNUAL  
HALL OF FAME  
INDUCTION CEREMONY

APRIL • 25 • 2024

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CRYSTAL SKY BANQUETS  
7941 WEST 47TH STREET, MCCOOK, IL

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PAUL CHABURA - GORDON TECH  
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DAN GALANTE - LOYOLA ACADEMY  
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PAUL ICKES - ST. LAURENCE  
TOM KLEINSCHMIDT - GORDON TECH  
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CHUCK MCNELLIS - SAINT IGNATIUS  
JOHN O'LOUGHLIN - LOYOLA ACADEMY  
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# 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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**DAN O'BRIEN**  
**MAN OF THE YEAR**  
**RECIPIENT**

**MR. JOHN O'LOUGHLIN**  
LOYOLA ACADEMY

**MR. KEVIN BRACKEN**  
ST. LAURENCE

**DR. JOHN CAHILL**  
FENWICK

**MR. TONY DANIEL**  
MENDEL CATHOLIC

**MR. JOHN HOLECEK**  
LOYOLA ACADEMY

**MR. JOHN KNOEBEL**  
MENDEL CATHOLIC

**MR. MATT MACIEVIC**  
DE LA SALLE

**MR. MIKE MCGREW**  
MOUNT CARMEL

**MR. JACK MCINERNEY**  
FENWICK

**MR. JIM MCKENNA**  
LEO CATHOLIC

**MR. DAN NICHOLSON**  
BROTHER RICE

**MR. TIM RADTKE**  
WEBER

**MR. DAVE RILL**  
FENWICK

**MR. PAT SANTORO**  
FENWICK

**MR. JIM SEXTON**  
BROTHER RICE

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**MR. KEVIN BRACKEN**

**ST. LAURENCE**

**CLASS OF '90**



Kevin Bracken was a Greco-Roman wrestler who competed in the 2000 Summer Olympics where he finished in 6th place at 63 kg.

#### High School career

He attended St. Laurence High School in Burbank, Illinois where he was captain and most valuable wrestler for the Vikings first state championship team in wrestling. He led St. Laurence to a team state championship in 1990. Bracken was coached by Bob Trombetta and the late Tom Gauger. Gauger sparked Bracken's interest in Greco-Roman wrestling that led to his success.

#### College

In college, Bracken wrestled at Illinois State University before ISU eliminated its wrestling program during his final year. Bracken holds the record for the most career wins in the history of the Illinois State University with 127. In 2005, he was inducted into the Illinois State University hall of fame.

#### National/International

Bracken was an Olympic placer, a five-time national champion and a three-time Alternate for the U.S. Olympic Team. He was a Jr. National Championships runner-up in 1989 and Jr. National Champion in 1990 in Greco-Roman Wrestling. He was the 20-year-old age group National Champion in Greco-Roman and Freestyle and 5-time world team trials champion.

#### Honors and awards

1992, 1996, 2004 United States Olympic Team Alternate

1993, 1995, 2001 Pan-American silver medalist

1996 World Cup Champion

2000 Olympic Team Member, 6th Place

2001 World Championships, 7th Place

2003 Pan-American Champion

Olympic Training Center Team Captain for six years

1998, 2001, 2002, 2003 World Team Member



# DR. JOHN CAHILL

## FENWICK

### CLASS OF '72



John Cahill was born in Chicago and raised in Elmhurst, Illinois. He came from a Catholic league legacy: his father John played football at St. Ignatius, and his mother Marie's brother, George Spehn, a member of the CCL HOF, was captain of Tony Lawless's first North Section champion team in 1933.

John graduated from Immaculate Conception Grade School in Elmhurst. He is fortunate to have 2 brothers, Jim and Tom, who also loved sports, so it was always easy to start a pickup game of some sort. Jim played football and basketball at Fenwick, and Tom was a standout basketball and baseball player. One of John's greatest thrills was starting in the defensive backfield at Fenwick alongside his brother Jim. Jim went on to play football at St. Norbert, and Tom played baseball at Miami of Ohio.

At Fenwick, John played football and basketball. He played football under CCL HOF coach Len Tyrrell and was a three year starter at monsterback and two years as fullback. Along with Fred Dobry, he captained the '71 Friars. John was named all-Catholic in 1970 and 1971, and special mention All-State in 1971. In 1971, he received the Knute Rockne award from the Notre Dame Club of Chicago as the top student athlete in the Catholic League.

John played lightweight varsity basketball at Fenwick under CCL HOF coach Ed Galvin. John was a member of Fenwick's Catholic League Championship team in 1971. He was named All-Catholic that year.

John attended Yale University, where he played under legendary Coach Carm Cozza and was a three year starter at monsterback. He was a member of the 1974 Ivy League co-champions, a team that was ranked in the AP top 20 for much of the season. John was named to the All-Ivy League team in 1974 and 1975. In 1980, he was named to the all-Ivy League Quarter Century team, spanning the first 25 years of formal interleague play 1956-1980.

After graduating from Yale, John attended Loyola Stritch School of Medicine. He also did his additional training in internal medicine and cardiology at Stritch. For the past 37 years he has been practicing interventional cardiology at Elmhurst Hospital.

Since 1987, John has led a team of doctors that has provided athletic physicals every spring to student athletes at Fenwick.

John married Regina Grobe (IC Catholic Prep) in 1985. Together they raised 4 amazing sons: Mike, Pat, Connor, and Dan. All became Friar athletes (football and lacrosse), and all were members of the lacrosse B division state champions in 2007. John is grateful to Regina for all of her love and support.

John is appreciative for the opportunity to have played in the CCL, but is most thankful for the lifelong friends that have come from the shared experience of team sports.



# MR. TONY DANIEL

## MENDEL CATHOLIC CLASS OF '87



Tony was born and raised on the south side of Chicago. His parents are Bernice and the late Olen Daniel. He is the youngest of 5 with 2 sisters and 2 brothers. Tony and his wife Heather have 3 boys Joel, Jonah, and Jeramy.

Tony attended Mendel Catholic Preparatory High School and ran for coaches Ed Adams and Mike Garcia. In cross-country, he placed 110th in state sophomore year, 24th junior year, and 6th senior year, with the top 25 designated All State. Tony earned the Lawless Award twice by winning the mile and 2-mile races at the outdoor Catholic League Championships where he ran a 9:13 two mile, a record that stood for 25 years and also placed 4th in the 2-mile with a time of 9:07 at the Outdoor State Track Meet. He continued his running career at Illinois State University (ISU) with a full ride scholarship in cross-country and track & field and was coached by the late John Coughlin. He earned All-Academics senior year and won the outdoor track conference meet in the 5000 and 10,000 meter sophomore year. Tony is the only cross-country runner in ISU history to become All Missouri Valley Conference all 4 years by placing in the top 10 each year. In addition, he qualified for the National Cross-Country Championships in 1989 and 1990 and ran for a US team in Japan. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science from ISU and started working at Lanphier High School in 1993. He began coaching cross-country and boys track and field with Mike Garcia with track teams finishing 3rd in state in 2007, 2008, and 2009. Tony took over as head coach for girls track & field in 2010 and for cross-country in 2019. Since 1999 he served as an assistant to Doug Collins with girls basketball and the team placed 4th in state in 2020 for the first time in school history. Tony has been blessed to be able to give back to our youth and guide them with positive feedback.



## MR. JOHN HOLECEK

### LOYOLA ACADEMY



John Holecek is celebrated for his journey from a high school, college, and NFL athlete to a nationally renowned coach. At Marian Catholic, Holecek was a three-sport high school athlete but shone as a linebacker under legendary coach Dave Mattio. Holecek attended the University of Illinois where he had 436 tackles (5th all-time), was selected All-Big Ten multiple years, was named captain, and received the Bruce Capel award for courage and perseverance his senior year. John was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in 1995 marking the beginning of an eight-season career in the NFL, where he also played for the San Diego Chargers and the Atlanta Falcons. Although injuries nagged Holecek's NFL tenure, he started the majority of games, received the NFL's Ed Block Courage Award in 1998, and was named Player of the Week in October 1999 for his performance vs the Miami Dolphins. He retired in 2002 after starting 11 games for the Falcons. Holecek volunteered-coached at St Ignatius for two years and became the Head Football Coach at Loyola Academy in 2006. Holecek retired 17 seasons later with an 84% winning percentage and Loyola's all-time win record: 186 wins... including 2 undefeated seasons and a 30-game winning streak, 9 Chicago Catholic Championships, 17 consecutive playoff appearances with 11 Final Fours, and 7 8A State Finals (a record 4 consecutive appearances from 2015-2018). John led Loyola to three Illinois State Championships in 2015, 2018, and 2022 and a #1 ranked team in the 2021 COVID-shortened season. John retired in 2022 and enjoys spending time with his wife Patty and his three Loyola Academy graduate sons, Jake, Nick, and Luke.



**MR. JOHN KNOEBEL**

**MENDEL  
CATHOLIC  
CLASS OF '75**



John Knoebel is now happily retired. His life remains consistent with his Mendel Catholic High School roots as a Scholar- Athlete in the class of 1975, never forgetting that “Mendel Men are Gentlemen”. He earned 13 varsity letters in four sports at Mendel with numerous All-American teams and championships before being recruited by Harvard University. He lettered in varsity baseball and football and was awarded the football Henry Lamar award for leadership and graduated in 1979. He is particularly proud of his coaching career with Special Olympics in multiple states dating back to 1977.

He was a senior executive for over 30 years before founding Noble Cause Consulting specializing in international healthcare process improvement and health informatics. He served in the Obama Administration as CEO of Building Healthier Communities, the official 501(c)3 of the First Lady’s “Let’s Move” campaign. He authored “Roadmap to Healthier Cities and Towns” documenting practical metrics and measurements for the US Department of HHS efforts to fight obesity. He led the Team Rubicon Global international implementation of Telemedicine in early disaster response and worked with Berkeley Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society.

John’s BOD work includes the American Medical Informatics Association advisory board, Secretary of the Harvard Club of Chicago, Chicago Chair of Harvard Varsity Club, and Friends of Harvard Football, Mendel Alumni Association board, executive committee vice chair for the Rosiland Franklin Institute for interprofessional workforce development, Board of Governors of the APHA Food and Nutrition section. He is also frequently asked to speak at national and international symposia on complex global health strategies and population health innovation.



**MR. MATT MACIEVIC**

**DE LA SALLE  
CLASS OF '96**



Matt Macievic attended De La Salle High School from 1992-1996. During his time at “De”, he was a 4 year Varsity starter on both the Track & Cross County teams. He also was a two year starter on the Basketball team.

#### Cross County

As a freshman, Matt finished 4th overall in the Chicago Catholic League and qualified for the IHSA Sectional Championship. As a sophomore, Matt won the individual Catholic League title, set 2 all time course records, placed 2nd in the IHSA Regionals and qualified for the IHSA State Championship meet. As a junior, Matt won the individual Catholic League, IHSA Regional & Sectional championships and earned All State honors and also set 3 all time course records. As a senior, Matt won his 3rd consecutive Chicago Catholic League title en route to winning the individual 1995 IHSA State Championship, running 3 miles in 14 minutes and 32 seconds.

#### Track & Field

Matt won 3 consecutive Chicago Catholic League titles in the 3200 meter run from the 1994 - 1996 seasons. Matt earned All State honors in his Junior & Senior seasons by finishing 3rd and 2nd place respectively in the IHSA Championship meet. He also set and still holds the De La Salle school records running the 1 mile in 4:17 and 2 miles in 9:16.

Matt Macievic earned a Track & Cross County scholarship to the University of Kentucky and graduated in 2001 with a Bachelor's degree. Matt now resides in Macungie, PA with his beautiful wife Jillian and children Michael & Ava.



MR. MIKE MCGREW

MOUNT CARMEL

CLASS OF '92

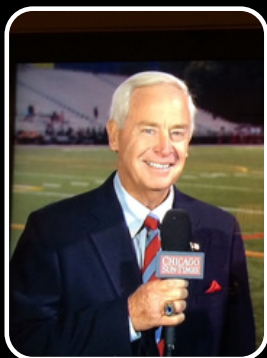


Mike played quarterback on three Mt. Carmel state championship teams spanning the 1989-1991 seasons. His first varsity start came as a sophomore in the second round of the playoffs when Mike and his teammates beat Shepard High School en route to a Class 5A state title. Mike assumed full time starting duties as a junior when he and his teammates went undefeated, winning another Class 5A state title, finishing as the #6 ranked team in the nation. Mike was elected a team captain in his senior campaign where he and his teammates again won the Class 5A state title, the Caravan's fourth state title in a row.

Mike went on to play fullback at Northwestern University where he and his teammates won back-to-back Big Ten championships in 1995 and 1996. Mike served as a team captain on the 1996 team.

Mike earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Northwestern and now serves as Executive Vice President and Chief Communications, Strategy, ESG and Diversity Officer at Constellation Brands, one of the largest suppliers of beer, wine and spirits in the U.S.

Mike is a father of three children, a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, co-Board Chair for Urban Initiatives (a Chicago-based non-profit supporting the development of youth in underserved areas of the city), a member of Northwestern University's Medill Hall of Achievement, a mentor to current Northwestern football players, and a member of Mt. Carmel's Hall of Fame.



# MR. JACK MCINERNEY

## FENWICK

### CLASS OF '61



Jack is a 1961 graduate of Fenwick High School. His football coaches at Fenwick were CCL Hall of Famers: John Jardine, Rudy Gaddini and Jack Lewis. His basketball coach was CCL Hall of Famer, Jack Kernan and his boxing coach was the legendary Hall of Famer Tony Lawless.

Jack attended Wright J. C. after Fenwick and was a 2-time all-conference football player. He was the captain of the undefeated and 6th ranked team in the country. He was voted the team "MVP" and the "Player of the Year" for Illinois Junior Colleges.

Jack then matriculated to S.I.U. to ply his football skills where academics ended his football career. Jack then joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He returned to S. I. U. after his service and earned his degree. During his career he has earned 2 Master's degree while coaching and teaching at I. C., Westmont, Lyons Township, Oak Park, and Downers Grove South.

Jack and Debbie have 2 daughters, Cara (Dave), Megan (Mark), and five grandchildren, Easton, Everly, Emersyn, Hudson, and Kyler.

#### Career Accomplishments

- 1978 – Jack started the first 7 on 7 summer passing league in the state of Illinois.
- 1980 – Founded the Suburban Football Coaches Assoc. which provided monthly clinics from Jan. – May.
- 1984 – 2004 – Founded and ran the North vs. South Suburban All-Star Football Game.
- 1986 – Vice President of IFCA
- 1987 – President of the IFCA
- 3A Football State Rep to ISHA
- 25 Year Trustee IFCA
- 1990 – Ray Eliot Award Winner of IFCA
- 1993 – Nominated for a TV Emmy Broadcast Award
- 2003 – Inducted into the IFCA Hall of Fame
- 2016 – DuPage County "Marine of the Year"
- 2022 – Inducted into the Westmont Hall of Fame
- 1987 - Present – 36 Year Color Analyst of the Illinois State Football Championship Games on TV
- 2024 – Inducted into the Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame



# MR. JIM MCKENNA

## LEO CATHOLIC

## CLASS OF '66



Jim McKenna is a 1962 graduate of St. Felicitas and 1966 of Leo High School. His officiating and coaching career encompasses youth leagues, grammar school and high school levels for both boys and girls. He coached his grade school alma mater St. Felicitas for 3 years and won a CYO championship in 1970. He currently serves on St. Cajetan Athletic Board where he has been active for 22 years. He has officiated the National Small Fry Tournament 5 times, including 4 trips to Orlando, Florida. Jim began his officiating basketball career in 1971. His 53 years of experience include many highlights – including working many prestigious tournaments @ Kankakee, Proviso West and Lincoln Way Central. He worked the Big Dipper @ Rich South for 25 years (a total of 128 games which included working the championship game twice.) Jim's high school playoff resume is extensive; on the boys' side, he has worked IHSA regional games for 36 consecutive years and sectionals for 16 - total of 195 boys state tournament games that also included 5 super-sectionals and 1 State Final Championship. Girls' playoff assignments totaled 159 state tournament games which include 3 State Championship Finals, 1 Semi-Final, 7 Super-Sectionals, 20 Sectionals and 34 Regionals. Plus the Girls Public League Semi-Final. A proclamation was given from Senator Ed Maloney (December 2011) recognizing Jim for his efforts organizing and officiating grade school and park district tournaments and recruitment of new basketball officials. Jim has been inducted into the following Halls of Fame:

COA (Central Officials Association) 2012

CPLBCA (Chicago Public League Basketball Coaches Association) 2012

IBCA (Illinois Basketball Coaches Association) 2013

CBO (Chicagoland Basketball Officials) 2016

Chicago Catholic League & Brother Rice honored 50th anniversary officiating 2021

He has been a COA member for 53 years. Jim is retired after 38 years of service with the Chicago Park District. He is married to Laura for 40 years, has a son Kevin married to Emily with 2 granddaughters, Nora and Molly.



**MR. DAN NICHOLSON**

**BROTHER RICE**

**CLASS OF '04**



Dan is from Beverly. His quarterback career began in third grade when he played in Mike Sheehan's touch football league. Dan began his Chicago Catholic League career at Brother Rice High School in 2000 where he lettered in football and basketball.

On the football field, Dan set several season and career records, including a career mark of 3,120 yards. During his senior year, Dan was the recipient of the Tony Lawless award and named first team Catholic League All-Blue Division. He was named first team Star Newspapers All-Area, Daily Southtown All-Area and Champaign News-Gazette All State. He earned special mention Chicago Tribune All-State, Chicago Sun-Times All Area, postseason Area Top 100 players and was a PrepStar All American.

Dan went on to play football at Northern Illinois University. As a two time team captain, Dan was a member of three bowl game teams and the quarterback for the MAC championship game. Dan owns two of the longest pass completions in school history (92 and 79 yards). He ranks seventh on the Huskies career list for passing yards (3,559), fourth in pass completions (312) and ninth in touchdown passes (23). His .592 career completion percentage is third-best in NIU history. After college, Dan was an assistant varsity football coach at Brother Rice under Steve Nye and Brian Badke.

Legendary coach Joe Novak described Dan as "a tough guy.... A throwback to old time Chicago Catholic League football players."

Dan lives in Beverly with his wife Cath, son Connor and works as an executive director at JP Morgan.



MR. TIM RADTKE  
ARCHBISHOP  
WEBER  
CLASS OF '84



Tim Radtke was born and raised on the Northwest Side of Chicago with his father Wally, mom Nancy and sister Kim. Tim started his athletic career as a 5 year old boxer at the North Austin Boys Club. The following year Tim began his football career at North Austin which competed in the Pop Warner Football League. Tim's time at North Austin helped set the foundation for the technique that he would build on throughout his career. Tim's play at North Austin earned him a partial scholarship to Weber High School.

At Weber Tim started every game as a junior and senior. His junior year, Weber went 7-4 making the Catholic League Playoffs. His senior year Tim was named team captain. That season Tim helped lead the Red Horde to an 8-2 record and a State Playoff berth for the first time in school history. After the season Tim was named to the Chicago Tribune & Sun Times All-Area Teams and was a First Team All-State selection. Tim was a captain of the Catholic League All-Star Team that defeated the Public League All Stars 44-0.

After his final season at Weber, Tim received a full scholarship to Indiana University. He started at offensive guard for 4 straight years, totaling 45 games. At the time that was an all-time school record for starts in a career. While at Indiana, his teams went from perennial loser (0-11 red shirt freshman year) to competing in three consecutive bowl games, winning the Liberty Bowl against the South Carolina Gamecocks 34-10. His Indiana teams also accomplished feats never done before. In 1987, Indiana beat Michigan 14-10 and Ohio State 34-10. In 1988 Indiana defeated Ohio State for the second straight year 41-7.

Tim received All-Conference Honors starting his sophomore season including being named Second Team All-Big Ten and Honorable Mention All-American as a Senior. Tim also was proud to have blocked for Indiana running back Anthony Thompson, who was second in the 1989 Heisman Trophy voting, broke Red Grange's NCAA record for career rushing touchdowns and was named to the NCAA Hall of Fame.

Tim currently resides in Apollo Beach, Florida with his wife of 31 years, Teresa. His oldest son Jake is in the Navy and deployed outside of Cuba. His younger son Luke is a graduate of Winona State University and lives in Rochester, Minnesota.



**MR. DAVE RILL**  
**FENWICK**  
**CLASS OF '87**



David Rill joined the Chicago Catholic League at Fenwick High School in 1983 after being sought out by his future mentor, coach, and Catholic League Hall of Famer, John Polka. As a Friar, David went on to earn countless achievements, most notably USA Cross Country All-American.

David continued his Catholic education and running career through a full-ride scholarship at Loyola University, where he competed at a national level and still remains the 8th fastest steeplechaser in Loyola history. David will always note that college would have not been an option for him had he not been developed by Coach Polka in High School.

After his time at Loyola University, David had four kids, a career as a Firefighter, and a continued love for running. During this time (22 years) Coach Polka tried to convince David to come back to Fenwick. Finally, in 2005, he did and David would hold an assistant coach position until Coach Polka was ready to pass his program off in 2009. David attended practice each day with his six kids in tow, two of which he later had the opportunity to coach.

As the Head Cross Country and Track and Field coach, David coached one USA High School All-American, 18 All-Staters, 70 CCL All-Conference athletes, and Fenwick's first ever Cross Country State Championship. He was also named 2021 coach of the year by the Chicago Catholic League and Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association.



# MR. PAT SANTORO

## FENWICK

### CLASS OF '97



Patrick Santoro grew up in River Forest where he attended St. Vincent before graduating from Fenwick High School in 1997. While at Fenwick, Patrick set records for single season home runs in baseball and single season touchdowns in football; two records that still stand today.

During Patrick's junior year he was a starting receiver on Fenwick's 12-1 team. For Patrick's senior season he then went on to set Fenwick records for single touchdowns (23) and interceptions (10). He was an All Area Selection, All Conference Selection, and Team MVP.

Patrick decided to run track during his senior year, which resulted in the first time in Fenwick history that they defeated OPRF where he placed first in the 55M and first in the 200M. Patrick also played basketball during his first two years, but decided to focus on his baseball career for the duration of high school.

For Patrick's junior year baseball season he was All Area and All Region. During his senior season, he set Fenwick records for total bases, on base percentage, home runs, triples and slugging average. While being selected to Mayor Daley's All City Team, in addition to All Area and All State selections.

Patrick was then drafted by the Boston Red Sox. He decided to forego the draft and play for the legendary Bob Simmons at Triton College, one of the most prestigious baseball programs in the country.

While at Triton, he was the MVP of the N4C Conference and First Team All American. Patrick then decided to sign with the Boston Red Sox as a draft and follow with third round compensation.

His professional career got off to a hot start. He was Lowell Spinner's Player of the Month in the New York Pen League. He unfortunately sustained a career-ending groin injury that plagued his five year career with the Red Sox.

For the past 20 years, Patrick has worked alongside his brother, Michael Santoro, at Restore Construction, a company proudly started by their father, Pat Santoro over 40 years ago.

Patrick lives in River Forest with his wife, Alex (New Trier High School), and their two sons, PJ and Bobby.



**MR. JIM SEXTON**

**BROTHER RICE**

**CLASS OF '94**

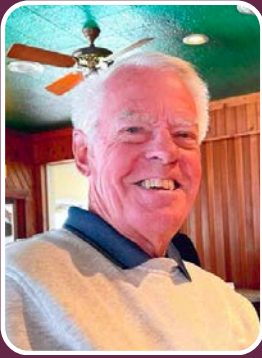


Jim is a 1994 graduate of Brother Rice High School. While a Crusader, Jim was a three-time All Catholic League player in basketball and two time All Catholic Leaguer in baseball. He is the school's all-time leading scorer and led the CCL in scoring in 1992-93. He was a 1994 all stater in basketball and the Crusaders won the 1994 Eisenhower Sectional. He was blessed to have played for Catholic Hall of Famers Pat Richardson and Mark Klutcharch in basketball and for Cliff Petrak as a member of the Crusader baseball team.

After graduation he attended Creighton University on a basketball scholarship. He then transferred to UIC and played basketball and baseball. While at UIC he played for Catholic League Hall of Famers Bob Hallberg and Denny Wills. In 1998, he was a member of UIC's first NCAA Tournament team.

He began his coaching career in 2002 as an assistant coach to Pat Richardson at Brother Rice. In two seasons the Crusaders won 1 CCL title, 2 regionals and the 2003 St. Xavier Sectional. The 2004 Crusaders went undefeated in the CCL. After some time away from the sideline, he returned to St. Laurence High School as an assistant to Jim Maley from 2015-2017. Then as the head coach at St. Laurence 2017-2020, he led the Vikings to a 62-34 record and two IHSA 3A Regional titles in three years. He has spent the last four years at Evergreen Park High School where in 2023-24 his team guided by his son Nolan won the school's first IHSA Regional in 50 years.

Jim has been in the medical sales industry for the past 22 years and resides in Evergreen Park with his wife Laura, son Nolan and daughter Olivia.



**DAN O'BRIEN**  
**MAN OF THE YEAR**  
**RECIPIENT**

**LOYOLA**  
**ACADEMY**

**CLASS OF '59**



## **MR. JOHN O'LOUGHLIN**

John has been a dedicated teacher and coach at Loyola Academy for 60 years (1964–2024).

During his tenure at the Academy he has had the privilege to coach under three Chicago Catholic League Hall of Famers: Gene Sullivan, Bill Gleason and Jim O'Donnell.

He was the varsity baseball coach for 28 years (1964 - 1992) winning the Lawless awards in 1968 and 1973.

John also served as Loyola's varsity basketball coach for five years before being sidelined with a paralyzing disease - transverse myelitis.

However, despite this setback, he continues to serve the basketball program as an assistant varsity coach.

In addition to assisting with basketball and baseball. John has been appointed the "designated G.M." of the Ramblers football program.

John has been a proud member of the Chicago Catholic League Coaches Association for over 40 years! He even held the position of President for three years.

He was inducted to the Chicago Catholic League Hall of Fame in 1982

# CHICAGO CATHOLIC LEAGUE

EST. 1912

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

ED ADAMS  
MARVE ADAMS\*  
RAY ADAMS\*  
ALEX AGASE\*  
FRANK AMATO\*  
DOM AMIDEI\*  
ERIC ANDERSON\*  
ELMER ANGSMAN\*  
JIM ANGSTEN\*  
MARK ANTONIETTI  
REV. JAMES ARIMOND S.J.\*  
JAMES ARNEBERG\*  
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# CHICAGO CATHOLIC LEAGUE

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# CHICAGO CATHOLIC LEAGUE

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BILL GLEASON\*  
BILL GLEESON  
BILL GLEASON\*  
BILL GLEASON\*  
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TOM GOBERVILLE  
JOHN GORMAN  
JIM GRANNON  
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BRIAN KELLY  
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JOE KRUPA  
MIKE KRZYZEWSKI  
MAX KURLAND\*  
CHICO KURZAWSKI\*  
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RICHARD KUZMA\*

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FRANK LENTI  
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JACK LEWIS\*  
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PAT MAHONEY  
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ED MANSKIE  
ED MARACICH  
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# CHICAGO CATHOLIC LEAGUE

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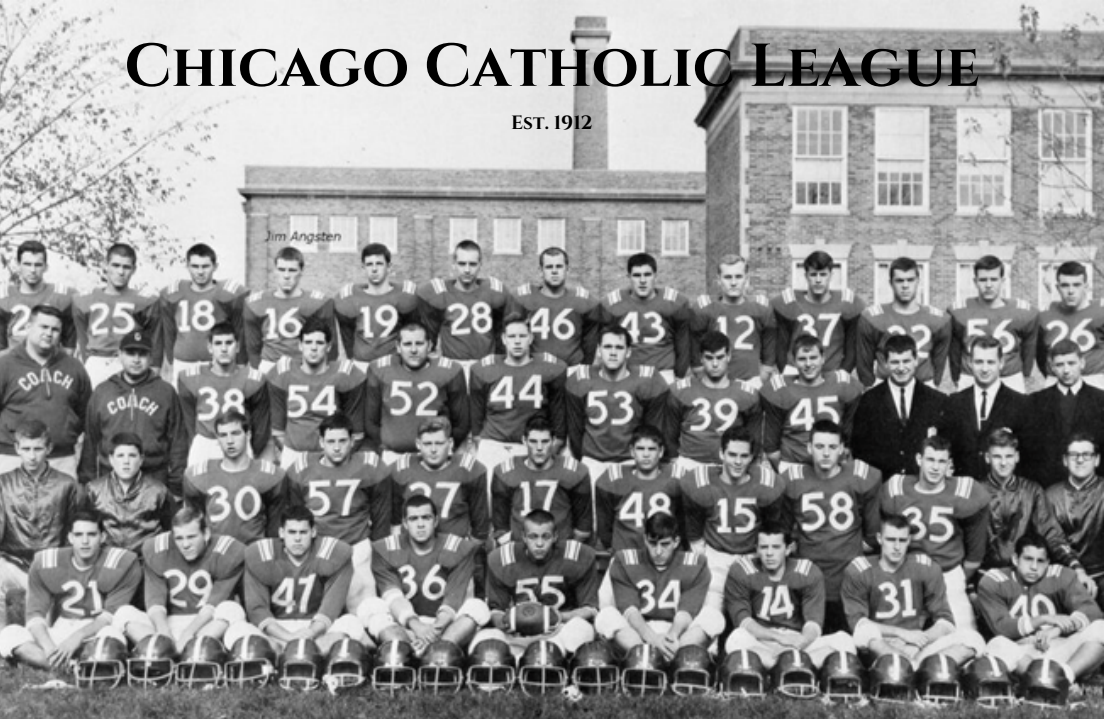
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MARK ZUBOR  
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# CHICAGO CATHOLIC LEAGUE

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# CHICAGO CATHOLIC LEAGUE

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## HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO CATHOLIC LEAGUE

By: Rev. James Arimond, S.J.

Though not the oldest high school athletic conference in the state of Illinois (the former Suburban League holds that distinction), the Chicago Catholic League has been in operation longer than any other. It all began on October 3, 1912 when representatives of eight parochial schools met in Chicago's Great Northern Hotel (demolished in 1992) to found the Catholic League. Those charter members were Loyola Academy, St. Cyril (Mt Carmel), DePaul Academy, St. Philip, St. Ignatius, De La Salle, Cathedral and St. Stanislaus. In that very first year of its existence, the League sponsored only basketball and indoor baseball. Football competition was to follow in the 1913-14 school year, track in 1916-17, swimming, golf, and tennis in 1923-24, cross country in 1946-47, wrestling in 1964-65, water polo in 1965-66, soccer in 1967 and volleyball in 1993. Baseball was dropped after the 1930 season but was reinstated in the 1957-58 season.

For the first 71 years of its existence, the Chicago Catholic League operated independently of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). The League's renown, especially in football and basketball, was recognized nationwide. But, during the late 1960's and early 1970's, as the need developed for a wider base of competition, especially in such sports as swimming, track, wrestling, golf, tennis and baseball, the principals of the League's schools began to consider the possibility of joining the IHSA. After much discussion, many arguments over pros and cons, and several meetings with the IHSA staff, the Catholic League's Principals voted 11-1 in favor of joining the State Association. Though the momentous vote was taken on January 30, 1973, the actual entrance into the IHSA did not take place until June 10, 1974. The reason for the 18-month wait was to give the League a full year of athletic competition during which it could make the transition to those rules and practices of the IHSA which differed from those current at the time in the Catholic League. Though there was a multitude of objections from many in the Catholic League about the decision to join IHSA, the benefits that have accrued to the Catholic League schools and students since 1974 have far outweighed the original objections.

