

Sidney Alumni Sports Hall of Fame Celebrates 21st Induction Weekend

The start of our third decade of the Sidney Alumni Sports Hall of Fame began with a memorable weekend on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21 and 22. Friday morning, our committee and others set up at the Elks Lodge, joined by Pam DuMond Tarnowski from Charlotte, North Carolina and Lanette Gray Williams from Kenmore, New York.



Larry Halbert – 2024 Chairperson

The 1991-'92 Legacy Girls' Basketball Team gathered at the Sidney Golf & Country Club on Friday afternoon. This team showed so much enthusiasm. Their beloved coach, Karen Clark, organized the gathering, which was followed by the football game Friday evening.

We enjoyed our traditional half-time recognition during the Sidney football game and our social gathering at the Corporal Ralph H. Arrandale VFW Post.

I want to express my gratitude to our excellent committee for their time and talent. This committee has been together for several years, and we were proud to add a new member, Alumni Sports Hall of Famer Mike Brazee. We kept our decorations simple but aesthetically compelling. There was an extraordinary tribute to the ladies' legacy team, an incredible display of affection for the team, and remembrance of a fallen team member. We also had a touching display, in addition to a maroon-and-white balloon arch donated by Stacy Tuttle from "Balloons by Stacy." Thank you, Alana Grays-Bailey, for your decorating efforts.



We are looking to enhance our main event ceremony and other related activities. For our main event on Saturday, we made several changes and additions, including a moment of silence, recitation of the Pledge of

Allegiance, a performance of "God Bless America" by alumnus Rosemary Mirabito, '76, short bios for introductory speakers, a full page dedicated to our valued sponsors, and a start time of 4 PM. This was the earliest start time ever, making it possible to enjoy the wonderful fall weather. We express our gratitude to Terri Stevens DeRoche, '77, for leading the invocation and benediction.

Before the main event, we paid tribute to the 20-year chairman, Greg Davie, by presenting him with a plaque recognizing his dedication and loyalty to the Sidney Alumni Sports Hall of Fame. Greg embodies the "Spirit of Sidney," as described in an excerpt from our SCSAA President Doug Sheldon: The "Spirit of Sidney" results from generations of young people growing up in a community culture and attending a first-class educational institution that promotes learning, teamwork, integrity, and community pride.

Our main event will showcase five remarkable inductees and our traditional Legacy team, hailing from Delaware; Ocean City, Maryland; Pennsylvania; and Australia. Let's start with the Cole brothers, Gary and Rob.



Larry Halbert presenting Greg Davie with a dedication award



We extend our thanks to our SCSAA President, Doug Shelton, for serving as our opening keynote speaker.

Cole was introduced by longtime friends Gary and Jackie Scavo. The Scavos needed little introduction, as most have known them for years and both were educators. Mr. Gary Scavo was inducted into our Sidney Alumni Wall of Fame in 2017 and was our high school principal for 21 years.

Gary Cole's exceptional athletic journey began with outstanding basketball, baseball, and cross-country performances. Gary is a 2015 Wall of Fame inductee. He enjoyed a successful coaching career at Indiana Tech, where he served as the head coach for the basketball and track teams and the Director of Athletics. He accepted the head basketball coaching position at SUNY Delhi in 1980.

Rob, known for his wrestling prowess, continued his career at Campbell University in North Carolina, where he was inducted into the Campbell College Sports Hall of Fame.

Robbie Cole is from one of the most outstanding athletic families Sidney has ever seen. From the oldest, Rick, to the youngest, Peggy, this was a family that thrived on competition, while maintaining the values of sportsmanship. And you can thank their parents, Dick and Ann “Ma” Cole for that.

Rob continued his wrestling career with his brothers Rick and Jim at Campbell University in North Carolina. He became a three-time district champion and four-time regional champion and qualified for the national tournament four times. He received numerous outstanding wrestler awards and was inducted into the Campbell College Sports Hall of Fame. While at Campbell, he also lettered in cross country and soccer.



Gary Cole – Gary Scavo – Jackie Scavo



Robbie Cole – Gary Cole

Then, to our 1991-'92 girls basketball team. Coach Karen Clark spoke about how each team member was integral and valuable. She also talked about Title IX, which was enacted in 1974 when she graduated from high school. Several of the players on the 1992 team played for five years for her on JV and varsity. This 1992 team was an exceptional team with a special bond. The theme for this talented group was "WE TRY HARDER." Their success can be attributed to their hard work and dedication. A special treat was that team scorekeeper (Mom) Nancy Sweet's attendance.



17th Annual Legacy Award

1991-'92 Girls' Basketball Team

Coach Steve Hornung proudly introduced Tom Graham, a remarkable four-sport student-athlete who left an indelible mark on Sidney High School. Tom's outstanding achievements were celebrated during his senior year in 1998, when he was honored with the prestigious Ralph Pyle Memorial Trophy for Most Outstanding Male Senior Athlete. As Hornung's protégé, Tom's legacy inspires future generations of student-athletes in the Sidney community.



Angela Mirabito, accompanied by sisters Lindsay and Maria, captivated the audience with tales of her unparalleled success in tennis and basketball. Angela's remarkable journey as a two-time Section IV Class C-D Doubles Champion and three-time C-D Singles Champion in tennis, coupled with her extraordinary feat of becoming the first and only female to score 1,000 points by her junior season in basketball, left an enduring impression on everyone present.



Coach Christine Race's introduction of Kimberly Young was nothing short of captivating. With over 26 years of coaching experience, Coach Race's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the field hockey community in Sidney. Kimberly's remarkable journey in varsity track and field and field hockey, coupled with her numerous accolades and outstanding achievements, is a testament to her unwavering dedication and exemplary sportsmanship.



Family, friends, coaches, and mentors represented the inductees and teams well. It was incredibly touching to see the generations interact with each other during the social hour and afterward.

You can always visit sidneyalumni.org to view all the photos from the weekend and read the fully published bios for our legacy team and the 2024 inductees.

The committee received a highly appreciated and successful response from local businesses and sponsors, allowing them to realize a profit to

support our goal. The \$750 SHOF annual scholarship highlighted this. A big thank-you goes to Shupperd's Print Shop for providing all the awards, gold rim glasses, our 2024 logo, and the legacy team basketball keepsake award. As always, a big thank-you and appreciation to the Sidney Elks Lodge 2175 for hosting the event and preparing a tasty buffet dinner.



Gary Cole ('69) – Rob Cole ('71) – Kimberly Young ('09) – Angela Mirabito Johnson ('03) – Tom Graham ('98)