



**ROSEVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

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# PRESS RELEASE

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Roseville High School Announces First Inductees into New Athletic Hall of Fame**

Roseville Community Schools is proud to announce the creation of the Roseville High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Included in the first class will be Ernie Whitt, Brian Sikorski, Davon Gray, Joe Pantaleo, Vanessa Blair, Rich Maloney, Harry Sullins, and Stan Miziniski. Honorees will be recognized at RHS on February 2, 2018, during halftime of the varsity basketball game. Before the game, honorees and guests will be gathering for a dinner in their honor. All eight of the Hall of Famers are scheduled to attend.

Roseville High School Athletic Director Chris LaFevé said that the theme of this project was to honor the past while building the future. "It will help us celebrate all of the people that have benefited from the amazing schools, athletics and community that Roseville provides. The Hall of Fame Committee could not have picked a better group of people to represent Roseville Community Schools." The Committee, which consisted of eight former Roseville Athletic Directors from the current Roseville High School, Brablec High School, and the original RHS, voted for the first class of honorees. The Committee included: Dennis Borse, Major Mickens, Dave Rice, John Kment, Claudia Varblow, Oscar Franquist, Morris Wilson and Steve Vercammen, as well as LaFevé. To be inducted, former athletes must have graduated from Roseville Community Schools, been out of school for 10 years, have played collegiate sports, and earned honors at the league and/or state level.

At the induction dinner, RHS will also unveil their redesigned athletic wing hallway. The redesign features brand new wall graphics, including pictures of current and former athletes, and will incorporate a new touch screen display. This interactive display will feature biographies on the Hall of Famers, school records, schedules, and much more. Roseville High School has retired former athlete jerseys over the years, but this is the first official Hall of Fame to be placed at RHS. LaFevé said that he spent many hours going through old trophies, plaques, yearbooks, and talking with RHS graduates. "We have compiled all athletes that have earned honors in their time at RHS, and each year the Hall of Fame committee will come together to discuss potential former athletes that meet the criteria." Roseville Community Schools Superintendent John Kment said that Roseville has produced some outstanding athletes over the years. "It was an extremely tough decision as to who should be in this first group. We have many fine past athletes that we hope to induct in the future."

Hall of Fame bios included below.

- \* Ernie Whitt was a standout baseball player at Carl Brablec High School. After graduating in 1970, he played at Macomb Community College before signing with the Boston Red Sox in 1972. Whitt spent over 15 years as a Major League Baseball player for the Toronto Blue Jays, Atlanta Braves, and Baltimore Orioles. He has been coaching for the past 20 years, managing the Canadian National Baseball Team, and working as a catching coordinator for the Philadelphia Phillies.
- \* Brian Sikorski graduated from Roseville High School in 1992 before moving on to play baseball at Western Michigan University. He spent nine years in Major League Baseball, playing for the Texas Rangers, San Diego Padres, and Cleveland Indians. He spent 11 more years playing professional baseball in Japan. Sikorski is currently a scout for the Texas Rangers.
- \* Davon Gray is a 1994 Roseville High School graduate and was a prominent wrestler. Gray won the 103 lb. State Championship as a junior, and was the runner-up as a sophomore. As a senior, he wrestled at 112 lbs. and won a State Championship, a National Championship, and finished 5th in the World Championships. Gray attended Central Michigan University where he wrestled for four years.
- \* Joe Pantaleo graduated from Roseville High School in 1985 and was an outstanding wrestler. In his junior and senior years, Pantaleo went undefeated in the 155 lb. weight class, winning the State Championship both years. He received a scholarship to the University of Michigan to wrestle and became a two-time All-American.
- \* Vanessa (Maher) Blair is a 2001 RHS graduate who starred as a track and field athlete. She was a 2001 Division 1 State Champion in the high jump and received a full athletic scholarship to the University of Nebraska. She also holds the Roseville High School high jump record.
- \* Rich Maloney is a 1982 Roseville High School graduate and was a stellar athlete. He received All-Eastern Michigan honors in baseball and football and earned a baseball scholarship to Western Michigan University. He was a 3rd team All-American and went on to play AAA Baseball for the Atlanta Braves. Over the past several years, Maloney has coached college baseball for WMU, the University of Michigan, and most recently Ball State University, where he is the current head coach.
- \* Harry Sullins graduated from Roseville High School in 1975 where he was an exceptional bowler. Since graduating, he has built an impressive professional bowling career. He has five PBA tour titles, three PBA 50 tour titles, 30 regional titles, and one world title. Sullins is a member of several bowling halls of fame, including several state halls of fame, and the U.S. Bowling Congress.
- \* Stan Mizinski is a 1964 Roseville High School graduate who excelled in both football and track. He holds the school record in the long jump, the 120 high hurdles, and the 180 low hurdles. He earned a track scholarship to Western Michigan University where he won more hurdle championships. After college, Mizinski played two years of semi-professional football, in addition to being a Pacific Championship 60 yard high hurdle and 60 yard low hurdle champion.

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