

Sports

Eight placed in Hall of Fame

by Paul Benim
The Collegian

The 1991 Behrend Athletic Hall of Fame class was inducted in a ceremony Saturday night in Eric Hall.

The ceremony was an emotional evening filled with laughter, smiles, and tears. The most important part of the evening, though, was appreciation.

Approximately 200 people gathered in Eric Hall to salute the eight inductees. Family and friends from Maryland, Virginia and all over Pennsylvania travelled to provide a heartwarming atmosphere. Each inductee was introduced by a person of their choice and then was asked to say a few words.

There are three categories in which one can be elected into the Hall of Fame. One can be elected as a player, who played at Behrend College ten years prior, as a coach or administrator whose retired or moved elsewhere, or as an honorary member who has had a significant impact upon athletics.

Irv Kochel was inducted under the administrator category, Ed Onorato under the coach category, and Tom Lawless, Cheryl-Ramsdell-Anderson, Ashley Swift, Brian Vollant, Ron Hornyak, and Bill Stara were inducted as student athletes.

Following dinner the induction ceremony began with Dr. Roger Sweeting, a Hall of Fame Committee member presenting the induction of Irv Kochel.

"It is a distinct pleasure to introduce Irv as the first member into the Hall of Fame. Personally I owe a lot to Irv, and he was instrumental in the founding of Behrend becoming a leader in Jr. College's of PA," said Sweeting.

Kochel served as the Director of the Behrend Campus from 1954-1980. In his acceptance speech he stated, "Whatever Behrend accomplished, it wasn't due to me, but to the professional staff we had. I feel proud, I want you to know this is a special moment for me."

As a Penn State athlete he was awarded six varsity letters, four in track and two in wrestling.

Athletic Director and Committee member Herb Lauffer introduced the first coach into the Hall of Fame.

"The dictionary defines coach as a person who trains athletes, well Ed Onorato is not your stereotype of the word. He (Onorato) is an artist, a teacher, a poet, a professional who stands tall, and I was fortunate to witness this man's relentless dedication."

Onorato was emotionally moved by Lauffer's words and gave an inspirational reading of a poem he wrote while coaching at Behrend. Onorato coached four sports over a 12 year span at Behrend College. Ed has been a teacher-coach at Cathedral Prep for the past five years. His wrestling teams have gone 53-23-4. Twice he has been named District Coach of the Year.

Inductee Brian Vollant, a wrestling standout holds seasonal records for most wins in a season (25), career wins (55), and the longest dual meet unbeaten streak of 18.

"Vollant is an accomplished and accepted leader, and also the toughest and meanest practice player there is," commented Ashley Swift, Brian's former college teammate. In Brian's senior season he earned the William Koll Award for outstanding contributions to the Penn State wrestling program.

Cheryl-Ramsdell-Anderson, the first female athlete inducted into the Hall of Fame, was introduced by volleyball coach Jan Wilson.

Wilson spoke highly of the

"There are so many memories of Behrend, and this is a highlight that ranks up there with the World Series homerun."

two time female athlete of the year, who has since had the award renamed in her honor saying, "The Committee started with the best." Anderson starred in three years of basketball and two seasons each of softball and volleyball.

Eric native Ron Hornyak played in two seasons of basketball and baseball at Behrend. The former Behrend College Athlete of the Year in 1967 was the only player to go from a commonwealth campus to continue playing basketball at



Enshrined forever: Committee member Herb Lauffer stands with Hall of Fame inductees (l-r) Ed Stara (accepting for his son), Irv Kochel, Ashley Swift, Ed Onorato, Brian Vollant, Cheryl Ramsdell-Anderson, Ron Hornyak, Tom Lawless.

University Park.

Hornyak, the captain of the 1967 baseball team was a two year All-Star Junior College selection. It was an emotional moment for Hornyak. "Thank you all for coming, it is important you are here," said Hornyak.

appears in school record books for career hits (106), doubles (13), stolen bases (43), walks (55), runs scored (87), and in several seasonal categories.

As Tom concluded his acceptance speech, he placed the night's festivities right up there with major accomplishments.

coaching his soccer team towards their fourth state championship.

"Bill always challenged himself and teammates to become better. There is not a better high school soccer coach in the United States than Bill Stara," commented Herb Lauffer.

Ashley Swift was introduced by teammate Brian Vollant. Swift was 13-1 in his freshman season, 15-2 in his sophomore year at Behrend, and continued on to finish first in the District 18 championships.

"You saved the best for last, and that's what Ash is, the best," remarked Vollant.

Swift's collegiate record was 68-24 with four appearances in the Nationals.

"These honored eight have helped make the institution what it is today. This is only the beginning, today's student athletes through dedication, and performance may someday join these role models in this elite group. I challenge them to make new standards," concluded Lauffer.

The entrance wall to the basketball court is serving as the Hall of Fame Wall. There are plaques listing the names of the first inductee class into the Behrend Athletic Hall of Fame.

-Tom Lawless
12 year major league baseball veteran and Behrend Hall of Fame inductee

Hornyak concluded his speech with an emotional message for his father. "Dad we made it, this one is for you!"

Behrend's most famous inductee, Tom Lawless, was introduced by presenter and former Behrend baseball coach Shorty Stoner.

"Essentially Tommy has rewritten the record books at Behrend and not only for the highest bat toss in the World Series, but in all categories."

Tom played 12 years of professional baseball. Lawless

"There are so many memories of Behrend, and this is a highlight that ranks up there with the World Series homerun. Being here with distinguished guests, it is a great honor, thanks everyone," remarked Lawless.

Bill Stara, a three year starting goalkeeper at Penn State-Behrend set many records during his collegiate career. He set records for most career shutouts, most shutouts in a season, and for fewest goals against.

Stara's father accepted his son's entry because he was presently

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