

WHITEFISH BAY HIGH SCHOOL



Blue Dukes

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

ROBERT A. NICOLET

Class of 1955 - Athlete

A multi-sport athlete in the truest sense of the word, Nicolet was a dominant force in football, basketball, tennis, golf and baseball. Such was the level of his ability, he would wind up being the starting quarterback at Stanford University.

He was an all-conference and all-state level quarterback for the Blue Dukes football team that won a league title in 1954, earning three letters along the way. In basketball, he was a four-year letterwinner, also earning all-conference honors. He was also a three-year letterwinner in baseball, also earning all-league honors. In his rare free moments, he split time between tennis and golf, earning three letters in tennis and one in golf.

Classmate and lifelong friend Charles Mulcahy said that Nicolet was a true natural athlete and leader, whose competitive spirit was second to none, calling him “physically strong and mentally tough. ...(someone who) made a priority of winning.”

“Robert could pick up the basics of any sport and master them in a short time,” added Mulcahy. “He had a unique finger/eye coordination to throw, shoot or hit anything where he wanted. Robert could throw a football downfield with great precision, be a starter in basketball, excel on the tennis team, drive golf balls like an emerging pro and dazzle his teammates pitching two no-hitters for the baseball team. He exuded confidence in every sport and had a tremendous focus and desire to win.”

Nicolet married the love of his life, became a success in business and stayed physically active playing tennis and golf until close to his death in 2011, while also finding time to help out an old friend as an assistant football coach for a time.

Class of 2017-18

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MICHAEL J. KUTCHIN

Class of 1976 - Athlete

Quite possibly Bay's greatest male tennis player ever in the Blue Dukes' long, successful history in the sport, Kutchin made his mark when prep tennis was hitting a peak in Wisconsin.

He lettered all four years, finishing second in the WIAA singles' competition in both 1974 and 1976. In both those seasons, the Blue Dukes finished second to the mighty Nicolet empire. But in his junior season of 1975, Kutchin led Bay to the mountaintop, as Bay halted Nicolet's eight-year run of state team titles behind individual crowns in both singles and doubles play.

Kutchin earned that state singles crown with a 27-0 record, claiming conference and WIAA sectional titles along the way, often organizing practices and getting the team up early for workouts. In doing so, he became Bay's first state singles champion since 1949. He would finish his career as Bay's only four-time Suburban Conference singles' champion. He graduated from Bay as a member of the National Honor Society. He was also the top-ranked player in both singles and doubles in the Wisconsin Junior Tennis rankings several times, also earning that same honor in the Western District rankings. He earned an NCAA D1 scholarship to national power Texas.

In one letter of support, Kutchin was called a "Cahill tennis court rat," as he lived near the courts and could always be found there. "He played tennis day after day at the Cahill courts, determined to improve his game," the writer went on.

Former teammate John Larsen said that Kutchin's accomplishments have not diminished with time. "Mike won this title during the peak of tennis," wrote Larsen. "I can count at least 20 division 1 tennis players that played in the 1975 (WIAA) state tournament."

Mike continued to give back to athletics in his community of Middleton by helping to redefine the HS Booster Club's revenue sharing model and allocation to all sports.

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THOMAS DEWING

Coach

Dewing co-founded the girls swim program, served as a long-time coach for the boys swim team and was also a physical education teacher and coach of other sports at Bay, serving as a positive influence on hundreds, if not thousands of young athletes in his 29 years at the school.

Elected to the Wisconsin State Swimming Coaches Hall of Fame in 2003, Dewing co-founded the Bay girls program in the early days of Title IX with Jennifer Berna in 1972 and led the program until 1975. He later came back to coach the team again from 1996-98. He led the highly successful boys team from 1970-86, pacing them to three straight WIAA state runner-up finishes from 1978-80.

Teams that Dewing led compiled a dual meet record of 187-34. They also earned 106 all-state selections, 24 individual state championships, 20 high school All-American designations, six conference team championships and four WIAA sectional titles. Bay also hosted the WIAA state girls meet from 1972-75 with Dewing serving as meet manager.

He was head coach of the Bay Swim Club from 1970-74 with teams consistently averaging about 125 participants a year. He would also later serve as president of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association. Also during his time at Bay, Dewing headed up the girls cross country team from 1986-88 and was an assistant boys golf coach for 27 seasons.

Dewing recently retired after 39 years of running an aquatics program at the Town Club in Fox Point and is currently giving golf lessons at Missing Links Golf Course.

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AMY (THURWACHTER) SEERING

Class of 1974

An early multi-sport girls star at Bay, Thurwachter Seering participated in track, volleyball, swimming and basketball and set the tone for numerous other successful female athletes who also wore a Blue Dukes' uniform.

She earned two letters in volleyball and basketball, but it was in track where she really made her mark. She started high-jumping in grade school in a sand pit in the family backyard and went on to earn four letters in track at Bay. Thurwachter Seering won the WIAA state high jump title her sophomore year of 1972 in just the second girls' state meet in history and finished third in the event her junior year. She was named Bay's Sportswoman of the Year in 1974.

Thurwachter Seering then went on to become a major contributor for the University of Wisconsin women's cross country and track teams, earning three letters in each sport and graduating with distinction in 1978 with a degree in physical education and coaching. Along the way, she earned the Shafer Memorial Scholarship and was awarded the prestigious Honor Society Mortar Board in 1977. She later served as an assistant track coach at Bay and the head girls' volleyball coach at Homestead.

She moved with her family to Minneapolis in 1988 where she and her husband Steve raised three sons. Thurwachter Seering was active in her sons' lives, coaching all of them in track, returning to teaching and coaching as they grew older. Thurwachter Seering has remained physically active, serving as a lifeguard and instructor in swimming and participating in special needs horseback riding.

"Without intending to do so, Amy was a pioneer in the evolution of women's sports," said fellow Bay Hall of Famer Mary Manning.

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