

WHITEFISH BAY HIGH SCHOOL



Blue Dukes

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

RICHARD GESKE

Coach

Richard attended State Teacher's College (UW-Milwaukee) where he played football for four years and was later inducted into the Hall of Fame (1973). He also played football at Western Michigan while serving in the U.S. Marines.

Richard coached football at Whitefish Bay for six seasons from 1952 to 1957. During that time the team won three straight conference titles, had a combined 38-9-2 record and had numerous players earn All-Suburban and All-State honors. The 1954 team was rated as the number one team in the state of Wisconsin by the National Prep Football Magazine.

While being an unparalleled technician and strategist at the game of football, Coach Geske's greatest strength was his ability to read talent in a player and convince that young man he could be better than he himself imagined. He got players committed to him and the team and, as a team, they played championship ball. He encouraged players to strive for additional yardage on the field and in life.

Richard was a man of honor and integrity who stood out not only as an excellent coach but as an outstanding classroom teacher (biology) and educational leader. Over twenty former players submitted letters in his support. The respect they felt for him was summed up in one letter which read, "Coach Geske was a winner as a coach, a teacher and a man. He led by example which was then, and is today, a great example to emulate. I was fortunate to have Coach Geske in my life."

Class of 2014-15

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ANNE PUFAHL

Class of 1979 - Athlete

As an athlete at Whitefish Bay High School, Anne Pufahl was a member of the volleyball and basketball teams. She started as a sophomore on the volleyball team, making it to state in 1976.

After graduation from Whitefish Bay High School, Anne attended UW-LaCrosse and was a four-year varsity letter winner on the women's volleyball team, qualifying for Nationals every year, finishing in the Elite 8 three times and earning three conference championships. UW-LaCrosse inducted Anne into their Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004.

After college, Anne became involved in volleyball officiating and coaching, refereeing five NCAA National Championships matches including the 1999 Division 1 Finals in Hawaii. She served on US Volleyball's Board of Directors and on the Board of Directors for PAVO (Professional Association of Volleyball Officials). In December of 2014 Anne was inducted into the PAVO Hall of Fame.

Anne coached the Marquette University Women's Club Volleyball team, winning three National Championships (2008, 2013, 2014) and finishing as the National runner-up in (1999, 2007, 2011). She was named the National Coach of the Year in 2004.

Anne served as the Coordinator of Volleyball Official's for the Big 12, Sun Belt and Summit Conferences and served as the Vice-President of the NCVF (National Collegiate Volleyball Federation). In 2011, the NCAA named Anne as their Secretary-Rules Editor for women's volleyball – making her responsible for writing the volleyball rules book for all divisions of NCAA women's volleyball.

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RICHARD VANDEN AVOND *Coach*

The WFB boys' cross country teams under "Coach Van" won State Championships in 1961, 1962 and took the runner-up position in 1963. This was an unprecedented feat for a rookie coach. Subsequent years produced numerous top ten placements in the state competition, as well as winning Suburban, Regional and Sectional Championships. In 1978 and 1979, he accepted the coaching position for the boys' tennis team, and brought home State runner-up showings both years. He also served as the track distance coach for more than 2 decades, producing some of the best distance squads in the extremely competitive Suburban Conference.

Coach Van's innate mastery of the psychology of coaching motivated athletes to extend and reach beyond their potential. Every athlete on the team received a daily pat on the back, constructive feedback and a motivational thought. His greatest attribute was incorporating a sense of play into the training regimen, building esprit de corps amongst his athletes. The team would attend a camping week in the off season to build skill and endurance, they cross-trained by playing games in the pool at the end of a practice and ran DQ dilly bar relay races. The life lessons that Coach Van bestowed upon his runners will always be held with highest regard.

"Think, Look, Act 1st class...you will be 1st class"

Richard Vanden Avond was a rare teacher, mentor and coach whose love for science, life and sports left a tremendous legacy to the Whitefish Bay community.

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MARIO AND MARIUS BOYD

Class of 1998 - Athletes

Twin brothers Marius and Mario Boyd were the heart and soul of Whitefish Bay boys' basketball teams during the 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 seasons, the "golden era" for Whitefish Bay basketball. In the 60 plus years prior to those years, Bay had only made it to State twice. In the three seasons the Boyds played varsity basketball, they went to state all three years, including the first two Whitefish Bay basketball state championships (1996 and 1998). The undefeated season in their sophomore season of 1996 (27-0) remains, to this day, the only undefeated season in Whitefish Bay basketball history. In the Boyd years the varsity record was 75-4 and included three consecutive North Shore Championships.

Both Mario and Marius were voted North Shore All-Conference all three years and earned all-state honors two years and All-USA honorable mentions in 1998. They both played collegiately, with Marius playing at the University of Northern Iowa and finishing at the University of Central Florida while Mario played for Bo Ryan at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville.

Coaches Jeff Thielke and Jack Bleier, with over 45 combined years of coaching Whitefish Bay boys basketball, said, "Mario and Marius, from both a character and basketball standpoint, were two of the greatest ambassadors for Whitefish Bay basketball. Even with their great abilities, it was crystal clear that, for them, team goals always trumped individual goals. Two of the finest young men we ever had the privilege to coach."

Class of 2014-15