



## Joseph Allen, Sr.



A 1974 graduate of Warren Western Reserve High School, Joe Allen is widely regarded as the “best golf partner anyone could ask for” and “a true professional.” He is a six-time winner of the Northern Ohio Section PGA Championship.

After turning pro in 1987, Joe became the assistant golf pro at the East Liverpool Country Club. Two years later, he was on the Space Coast Mini Tour in Florida. Joe then came back to Ohio to be the assistant golf pro at Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Solon. He then became the teaching pro at Troy Hill Golf Center and the Grand Resort and Northwood Golf Club in Warren.

Joe coached Jason Kokrak to the Ohio Amateur Championship in 2006 and 2007 and Laura Nochtka in 2010. He led three area golf teams to Ohio State High School Team Championships—Warren John F. Kennedy boys in 2000 and 2001, Poland girls in 2008 and Lakeview girls in 2015. Joe also coached the Hickory girls to the Pennsylvania High School Team Championship in 2021 and 2022. He guided the Kennedy boys and girls, the Poland girls to three consecutive runners-up finishes and the Brookfield boys to the state finals. Joe has sent at least one Ohio or Pennsylvania high school golfer to the State tournament every year since 2000.

Joe is currently one of the golf instructors at Avalon Golf and Country Club in Howland and Northwood Golf Club in Warren. He has one son, Joseph, Jr., and two granddaughters.

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## Lawrence Coleman



A 1981 graduate of Warren Western Reserve, Lawrence Coleman was a two-sport standout excelling both in football and track. As a senior, he set the school record for most rushing attempts in a single season with 211 and most rushing yards with 1,264. That season, Lawrence was selected to play in the Ohio North-South All-Star Game for head coach Don Charlton. Lawrence also set the school record for the 110 high hurdles and the sprint medley relay reaching the state semifinals in the high hurdles under head coach Jack Thornton. His speed led him to play football at Findlay College under former Raiders' head coach Dick Strahm.

Lawrence coached youth basketball at the Rebecca Williams Center in Warren. It started as "boys only" with his nephew, Vanness Provitt, but, he then brought in his niece, Vernita Provitt-Lyons. The experience helped both of them become area standouts at Warren Harding and eventually, their induction into the Warren Sports Hall of Fame. Lawrence also coached several youth football teams including the Warren Little Raiders.

Lawrence moved to Columbus to complete his Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Ministry at Ohio Christian University. He serves as one of the Associates Pastors under Rev. Nehemiah Howard at Mt. Zion C.O.G.I.C. and was ordained as Elder Lawrence Coleman in 2019.

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## Carl Diggs



A 1999 graduate of Warren Harding High School, Carl Diggs was a two-way standout on the Raiders' football team as a running back and linebacker. After missing his junior season with an injury, he rushed for 1,284 yards with 18 touchdowns and also recorded 86 tackles, seven sacks and two interceptions as a senior. Carl was named to the All-Trumbull County First Team and was selected as the Trumbull County "Player of the Year." Plus, he was an All-State selection and Ohio's Division I "Defensive Player of the Year."

Carl continued his playing career at the University of Michigan, where he started 30 of 48 career games as a linebacker and was named the team's tri-captain in 2003. He registered 191 career tackles (135 solos) with two sacks, 28 tackles for loss, a forced fumble, an interception, four pass deflections and a blocked kick. Carl earned All- Big Ten Honorable Mention and was placed on the Butkus Award "Watch List" as one of the nation's top college linebackers. He graduated from Michigan in 2003 with a Bachelor of Art degree in Management and Communications.

Carl now lives in Niles and is the Program Director for Inspiring Minds Youth in Warren.



## Roger Orsinelli



A 1977 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, Roger Orsinelli played point guard for the Eagles' basketball team. He received First Team All-Mahoning Valley Conference honors his junior and senior years. During his senior season, Roger led the conference in assists and steals and was the MVC's second leading scorer. He was selected to the All-Diocese First Team, All-NEO District

First Team and was named All-Ohio Special Mention.

After graduating from JFK, Roger played two years of basketball at the College of Wooster before graduating from Bowling Green State University. After college, he went on to a successful 35-year career with Procter & Gamble. During his career he was recognized for his outstanding work in Customer Business Development. He retired from P&G in 2019.

Roger has been a volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at Loveland High School for the past 15 years as well as an Assistant Varsity Girls Golf Coach. He enjoys teaching and coaching younger athletes by stressing a hard work ethic, being a good teammate and competing every day.

Roger was also voted into the Warren JFK Sports Hall of Fame in 2012. He now resides in Loveland, Ohio, with his wife Barbara. They have two children, Michael and Elizabeth.



## Charles Penny



Charles Penny graduated from Knoch High School in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania in 1993. He graduated from Mount Union College with a Bachelor in Education in 1998. In college, he played football and was a member of three National Championship Teams (1993, 1997, 1998). Charles also ran track and was a four-year letter winner along with being an All-Ohio Athletic

Conference athlete in both indoor and outdoor track.

Charles came to Warren in 2003 to become the head track coach at Warren Harding High School. He was later named the head cross country coach in 2008. During his coaching career with the Raiders, Charles has been *The Vindicator's* "Track Coach of the Year," a 14 time Trumbull County "Coach of the Year", nominated for the Fred Dafler Career State "COTY" award in Boys Track & Field, District 1 Boys Track & Field "COTY" by the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches, and most recently has been awarded the District 1 Girls Track & Field "COTY" by the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches.

Coach Penny led the Raiders to the school's first Boys OHSAA Division I Track & Field State Title in 2010. He then guided the girls' cross-country team to the school's first country league conference title in 2012.

Coach Penny and his wife, Maureen, reside with their three children Zachary, Evan, and Ariana in Warren, where he serves as Harding's Dean of Student Services and AP Coordinator.





## Matt Richardson



Playing for championship football teams was the “norm” for Matt Richardson. The 1994 graduate of Warren John F. Kennedy, he was a member of the Eagles’ 1991 Division IV State Championship football team and their Division IV State Runner-Up squad in 1992. As a senior, Matt received All-Ohio honors in both football and baseball.

Matt went on to win two NCAA Division I-AA National Championships at Youngstown State in 1994 and 1997. He was a three-year starter at fullback and was named team captain for the 1998 season.

Matt then entered the high school coaching ranks starting at Youngstown Rayen in 1999. He spent time at Warren Harding and was on the staff during the Raiders’ 2002 Division I State Runner-Up team. Matt moved on to Solon and later Akron Archbishop Hoban, where he is currently the team’s offensive coordinator. He helped Hoban win the 2020 Division II State Championship and reach the 2021 state title game.

Matt is a teacher at Solon Middle School. He and his wife, Janell, have three children—Justice, Jayla and Matthew. Matt was inducted in the Warren John F. Kennedy Hall of Fame in 2016.

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## Joseph Sekula



A native of Warren, Joe Sekula graduated from Warren John F. Kennedy High School in 1976 and attended Youngstown State University. His enthusiasm for sports was the prelude to his vast interest and superlative accomplishments for the Warren Sports Hall of Fame.

In early 1989, Joe was approached by the late Judge Donald R. Ford to assist himself and Gene Rossi in developing a small concept which Judge Ford dubbed "The Game." That small concept evolved into being one of the largest and most successful "Michigan/Ohio State" banquets in Northeast Ohio. Joe, with the help of the board members, successfully presented this event for 16-years.

To quote Judge Ford regarding Joe's efforts, "More importantly, he is a motivator who gets us all off our southern posteriors to get things done on a superlative level."

A few of Joe's other accomplishments for the WSHOF include developing the Warren Sports Hall of Fame website as an informative tool regarding past and present local schools' athletic information. A strong believer in getting youth involved in sports, he initiated the Mahoning Valley's only Junior Home Run Derby in association with Major League Baseball. His "gift of gab" persuaded both local high schools to dedicate an area in their gymnasium to display WSHOF memorabilia, soon to include individual portraits of all the State Championship Coaches.

As Joe always has his hand out for donations for the Hall's next event, to quote Shawn Bryant, our former late Head Coach, "When you see Joe coming, RUN, as he always has his hand out for money! But, when you see him coming back, be assured, he will always bring you five times more!!"

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## Michele Richetto Thirion



A graduate of Warren Western Reserve High School, Michele Richetto Thirion has been around and in pools since the age of four. However, she did not start swimming competitively until the age of 12 at the Warren Elks Club.

Michele swam for the YWCA for six years winning two National Titles and broke records in both the 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke. Under the leadership of Coach Goldberg, she attended the National Junior Olympics in Gainesville, Florida, and Santa Clara, California, placing 15th. During that time, Michele was also swimming for Western Reserve. She earned multiple awards during her high school career including three-year District Champion and record holder, three-year Division 1 State finalist, Ohio State All-American and set five Western Reserve school records. Because of her accolades and Title IX, Michele was awarded a full scholarship to swim at the University of Cincinnati.

During her collegiate career, Michele's success continued in and out of the pool. As a freshman, she captured three OASW championship titles along with new event records in the 50, 100, and 200-yard backstroke. Michele was a two-time All-American Women's Collegiate Swimming and Diving Team Division I recipient. Due to her father's illness, she returned home and completed her education at Youngstown State University earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communications and Public Relations.

Michele retired from the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services in 2017. She was employed for 31 years, and her most recent position was Regional Program Delivery Supervisor. Currently, Michele resides in Bazetta with her husband Tom. Their children Allison Blasius (Drew) and Dylan were swimmers for Warren Harding.

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## Bob Todd



A very active and dear friend to John F. Kennedy High School, Bob Todd attended Youngstown State University from 1964-1967. He became a part of the JFK family when his oldest daughter, Molly, was a freshman. His younger daughter, Sarah, followed two years later.

Bob's tenure as part of the Kennedy boys golf team began in 1998. He was their assistant coach for five years and then head coach for four more years. Bob and his teams made eight appearances at the state level winning two State Championships (2000 and 2001) and finishing State Runners-Up in 2002. He was named Trumbull County "Coach of the Year" in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002. Bob was inducted into the Warren JFK Sports Hall of Fame in 2014. After giving 35 years of service to the Denman Tire Corporation, he retired and was able to volunteer more time supporting the JFK family as a member of the Finance Committee and JFK Boosters. Bob has been, and is currently, on the Varsity Club, Athletic Hall of Fame for St. Mary's/John F. Kennedy Catholic School committee since its inception.

Bob resides in Warren and was married to his late wife, Fran (Lillicotch) for 45 years.

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## Joe Tresey



A Warren native and 1976 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, Joe Tresey certainly has an impressive coaching career. He has a tireless passion for the game of football and works hard to get the best out of his players.

Joe served four seasons as head coach at Middletown High School, two at New Philadelphia, three at Fredericktown and two at Mechanicsburg. After leading Fredericktown to Ohio's Division IV state semifinals in 1989, he was voted UPI Ohio Division IV "Coach of the Year." Joe was later inducted into the Fredericktown High School Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999 and then the Warren John F. Kennedy High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012.

Joe began his college coaching career as the defensive coordinator, linebackers and secondary coach at Otterbein in 1995. Since then, he has been the defensive coordinator for BCS programs—UCLA, South Florida and Cincinnati. Joe also has experience at the FCS level, coaching at Youngstown State, Georgia Southern, VMI and Norfolk State. He also coached in the Mid-American Conference at Central Michigan, Akron and Kent State. In addition to that, Joe served as the defensive backs coach for the Omaha Nighthawks of the United Football League. He recently returned to the high school ranks as an assistant coach at Canton McKinley.

A 1982 graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's degree in Education, Joe earned his Masters of Education in Sports Science from Ashland University in 1997. He and his wife, Patricia, have a son, Patrick who is an offensive graduate assistant at Ashland.

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## James Tsilimos



As a high school football player at Warren Harding High School, Jim Tsilimos developed a passion for the sport. He was the starting offensive tackle on the Panthers 1971 Class "AAA" State Championship team. After graduating in 1972, Jim went on to play at Mount Union College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Education. He later received a master's from Youngstown

State University in American History.

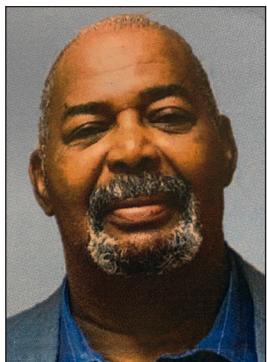
Since his playing days, Jim taught for 34 years for six public school districts and has been involved with coaching football at the college and high school levels for 47 years. After being an assistant coach at Howard University and Hiram College, he returned to Warren as an assistant coach at Western Reserve High School in 1984. Jim then became the head football coach at Benjamin Logan High School, Wilmington High School and eventually Lisbon David Anderson High School, where he is the school's all-time winningest coach with 147 wins. His teams at Lisbon won six Tri-County League championships and made eight state playoff appearances. In 1995, he led Lisbon to the Ohio Division V State Championship and was named the Division V "Coach of the Year" that season. He was tabbed as the Columbiana County "Coach of the Year" six times, the M.V.C.A. "Coach of the Year" five times and was a four-time winner of the Quad County Football Coaches Association "Coach of the Year" award.

Still a resident of Lisbon, Jim firmly believes his success as a coach is due to his parents, Steve and Elizabeth, family including his wife Carol, teachers, and coaches. The person who had the biggest influence on Jim to pursue a career in education was his uncle, Nick Pitinni, who he considered as a father figure, role model and a friend.

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## Thomas Turner



A 1965 graduate of Warren Harding High School, Tom lettered as a wide receiver and defensive back for Panthers' head coach Ben Wilson and also played centerfield for baseball head coach Bob Klein. Upon his graduation, he attended Central State University and also served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War from 1971-72. Tom returned to Central State and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Education in 1974. That year, he assisted with the tornado recovery effort in Xenia, Ohio.

Tom came back to Warren in 1975 to be a teacher and an assistant football coach at Harding. "Coach T" worked with five different head coaches during his 22-year career. He was the defensive backs coach on Warren Harding's 1990 Ohio Division I State Championship football team. Tom also coached baseball while at Harding and assisted the legendary Charlie Caffie in the summer leagues.

Tom still resides in Warren and is the proud father of Dr. Sean Davenport, who is a Community Superintendent in the New York City Department of Education.

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