

BISHOP GALLAGHER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020



2020 Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame Inductees

We're very excited to announce that the 2020 Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame will induct our first non-football inductees. Last year we announced that we intended to expand the Hall-of-Fame to truly represent all sports played at Bishop Gallagher. We will also extend an invitation to the entire Bishop Gallagher Community to come out and celebrate the achievements of our hall-of-fame inductees. Details for the Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame Induction are in the adjacent article.

This year we will induct our first female coach and athlete. **Joanne Shirkey** will be honored for her outstanding service to BG athletics. Space in this article doesn't allow to fully list all the contributions Joanne made to BG during her outstanding career there. Just to hit the highlights, Joanne served as Women's Athletic Director, Head Basketball Coach, Head Volleyball Coach, Head Softball Coach and taught several classes from biology to physical education and served as Dean of Women.

Cynthia Goyette-McCullough is first female athlete to be inducted in the Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame. Cynthia is a member of BG's first graduating class in 1964. Cynthia won a Gold Medal at 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan where she as part of the 4 x 100-meter Medley Relay team swimming the breaststroke leg.

BG athletics is probably best known for its' accomplishments on the baseball diamond. Led in the early years by 2016 Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame Inductee Jim Bresciami, BG won several State Baseball Championships. To be that successful, some pretty good baseball players walked the halls of BG. Two of the best are our first Lancers Forever Baseball Inductees. They are **Greg Boos** (1971) and **Dave Embree** (1972). Both All-Staters helped lead BG to its' first ever Class A State Baseball Championship in 1971.

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Announcing the 1st Bishop Gallagher Alumni LANCERS FOREVER HALL OF FAME GOLF OUTING & BANQUET

Saturday, August 29, 2020
You're invited!

You're invited to the 1st Bishop Gallagher Alumni Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame Golf Outing and Banquet. ***All BG Alums and friends are invited.***

This will truly be a wonderful event as we celebrate BG, embark upon an expanded Hall-of-Fame and award our annual George Sahadi Memorial Scholarship.

The event will be held at Oak Ridge Golf Club on Saturday, August 29, 2020. Golf will be an 18-hole scramble with a 1 PM Shotgun start. The banquet will be from 6 – 10 PM.

Ticket prices are; Golf & Banquet (including lunch, on course beverages & dinner) - \$100/person. Bring a foursome or we'll put you in one. Dinner only (including beer and wine) - \$40/person. Hole sponsorships are available for \$55.

For more information or to purchase tickets by mail see the **Entry Form** below or purchase tickets on-line at www.GallagherFootballAlumni.com. For more information or questions, send us a note at BishopGallagherFootball@gmail.com.

Please come out and help us honor our Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame Inductees and meet up with old friends.

2020 Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame Inductees (continued)

Andy Krause (1981) will also be inducted. Andy was a football and baseball player at BG. He went on to have an outstanding baseball career at Michigan State University.

Two football athletes, **Joe Piersante** and **Lindsberg Pettway** (1990) will be inducted. Both players had outstanding careers at BG and went on to have outstanding college careers.

The 2020 Lancers Forever Hall-of-Fame Induction and Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, August 29 at Oak Ridge Golf Club. See announcement in this Newsletter for more details or go to our website at www.GallagherFootballAlumni.com.

Membership Corner

- ✓ If you did not receive this Newsletter via email, but would like to, please send your email address to BishopGallagherFootball@gmail.com.
- ✓ Please let us know if you like the newsletter. Or if you have any suggestions for how we can improve, let us know.
- ✓ If you're interested in becoming more involved with any of the things we do, drop us a line. We're always looking for more help.
- ✓ Pay your \$25 dues on-line @ www.gallagherfootballalumni.com.

Where we've been, where we're going and 2020 Dues

It's been 6 years since the BGFA first gathered at Lear Corporation. This year we'll have our 6th Gathering Event in the form of a Golf Outing and Banquet. We hope you've had a chance to come to one of our Gatherings in the past and enjoyed seeing your old teammates, sharing the many war stories, and enjoyed a lamb chop or two. Or maybe you purchased some Sasser Dome dirt the 1st year to help us support the Chad Tough Organization (we still have some in case you missed it). Maybe you came out and had a good time at the BGFA Night-Out last fall. Maybe you just like stalking us through the Facebook posts. Maybe you won a Superbowl Square this year. Maybe you saw one of our George Sahadi Scholarship winners compete on the field. We've been fortunate over the past few years to be able to accomplish a few things and provide a way for us to connect.

Our mission statement as posted on our website is; "The BGFA, as alumni of Bishop Gallagher High School, have come together to connect and cultivate lifelong relationships developed in athletics at BGHS, and through our shared Christian values, to support the Association's mission of giving back to our community."

We believe we have lived up to our mission in these first 6 years. We also believe it's time to expand our group to include all BG Alums. We want to extend these opportunities to all our BG brothers and sisters. As we do this, we'll need more help. If you'd like to become more involved, working on event planning, a fund raiser, or the Hall-of-Fame, drop us a line and let us know.

We've also tried to keep the cost of attending our events low. We've not made a real strong effort to gain your financial support. We've had the good fortune to have several people step up and make amazing donations. But we do need your financial support. This year we're asking that everyone who feels this is a worthwhile endeavor and would like to see it continue, to support us with their \$25 dues donation. The BGFA is a non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible (if your accountant agrees). Additionally, this year's Golf Outing & Hall-of-Fame Banquet ticket will not include the annual donation. You can make your dues donation at this year's event or on our website (www.gallagherfootballalumni.com). Thank you in advance for your support!

Memories

For many of us, our time at BG shaped a lot of who we became. Through the years several former players expressed what their experiences meant to them. From time to time, we'll share these with you as many of us feel the same way and may not have expressed it in writing. If you have a memory you'd like to share, send it to us.

Sacred Ground by Tom Costello Jr. (circa 1990)

The area is quiet now. The trees have lost their leaves. The ground is still as hard as those who have tasted its dirt. The neighborhood no longer hears the shouts of those in charge or those or those who were preparing for the season ahead. The sounds of the forty or fifty young men, who each season trained on this hallowed piece of earth, are buried with all their memories. Memories of pain sweat damn hard work. The grueling day to day drills and conditioning are but a memory to the precious few who were able to keep up with the demands placed upon them. In all the years this Sacred Ground has witnessed young boys becoming men through the daily routine which we refer to as practice.

The five-man sled occupies a small piece of terrain in remembrance of the hot stifling days of practice and the rain-soaked days of trying to learn when most wished they could be someplace else.

Why call it Sacred Ground? What does it mean to those who have faced all the challenges it could offer? As you drive by during the hot August and September days, you see those eager to excel. Sure, some want to gain the elusive championship. Others hope they can achieve some future college education through their endeavors. But most just want to belong to the group, have some fun, and win a few games. Most will never get the opportunity to play college ball. So, there they are, day in and day out, through the hot days of August to the bone chilling days that October can bring.

This Sacred Ground does have a name. Affectionately, it is called the Sasser Dome. The ground which makes Bishop Gallagher young boys the future men who will work and guide others to become men among boys. The ground never gets soft. A two-day rain seems to harden it more. The thoughts of many reflect the first meeting when you get dumped to the ground. A painful meeting with a part of a mother nature who shows no mercy.

Many wars have been fought at the Sasser Dome. A few yards for a first down seemed miles away when you go over the same plays time after time. The guy on the other side of the line has his job. He cannot allow you one precious piece of earth. If he allows you to gain an inch, someone is there to tell him about it. If you stop him, you get the praise, he catches hell. No matter which side of the line you play, you do not win at the "Dome." Preparing for your next opponent brings up all the challenges a young man must endure. Repeat the play, block and tackle do it over and over until it is right. This is where you WORK. The game should be fun. You wonder if you will make it back to the locker room and home for that late supper which is kept on the stove by an anxious mother who worries about her son. She knows he is in good hands, but as all moms must, she worries about that unexpected injury.

You find out what you are made of practicing on the Sacred Ground. It not only prepares you for the season, it prepares you for the future.

When graduation is long past and you think of the good and bad times of being a high school student, your thoughts often reflect on your days at this unforgettable practice field. Each time you drive by or stop to watch the youngsters who have replace you, untold stories race through your mind about your time on the Sacred Ground. And as you reflect, you become more aware of just how important this small patch of earth is such a large part of your life. Deep down you know you will always remember Sasser Field. The "Dome", this Sacred Ground.

(By the way, if you'd like to purchase some genuine Sasser Dome Dirt with proceeds going to a good cause, let us know.)

2020 BISHOP GALLAGHER ALUMNI



LANCERS FOREVER HALL OF FAME

GOLF OUTING & BANQUET

Saturday, August 29, 2020

Oak Ridge Golf Club – Marsh Ridge Course

New Haven, MI

<https://www.oakridgegolf.com/>



Golf Scramble Shotgun Start: 1:00 p.m.

Hall-of-Fame Induction Banquet: 6:00 p.m.

SPONSORSHIP & TICKET ORDER FORM

Golf Scramble & Dinner - \$100.00 per person

Includes lunch, prizes, dinner, beer & wine

Enter your foursomes' names below or name of individual

(Individuals will be placed into a foursome)

Golf & Dinner: \$100.00 x ____ = _____

\$ _____

Limited to first 31 foursomes sold! Individual checks accepted.

Lancers Forever Induction Banquet – Dinner only: \$40.00

\$ _____

Hole Sponsor - \$55.00

Includes hole signage with company name & company name in the banquet program book. (Please enter your company name and information below)

\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Indicate name(s) of foursome:

Hole Sponsor Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, St. & ZIP: _____

Email address: _____

Sponsor sign to read: _____
(one line please)

Pay by mail with check payable to:
Bishop Gallagher Football Alumni
33783 Colony Park Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331

Pay by credit card or PayPal at:
www.GallagherFootballAlumni.com

For more information:

Call Dan Alter (586) 707-7578 or Paul Saad (248) 361-0174 or email BishopGallagherFootball@gmail.com