PRESS RELEASE

SUBJECT: Announcement of the Howard County Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2018

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The Howard County Sports Hall of Fame, with plaques located at the Kokomo Event and Conference Center, is pleased to announce its 2018 class of inductees (alphabetical order, short summaries are below): Jaqueline Bagwell, Mark Gabriel, Gary Mumaw, Mick Owens, Willard Rice, Cari Stover-Richards and Ricke Stucker.

“We are thrilled with this class,” said Hall of Fame President Dean Hockney. “Since founding the Howard County Sports Hall of Fame in 2003, our board of directors is in continual awe of the accomplishments of each succeeding class of inductees. “This year we have state champs, scoring leaders, record-breakers, and a community icon. Howard County has been blessed with outstanding sports personalities, and we are proud to tell their stories.”

This will be the 16th class inducted into the Howard County Sports Hall of Fame, with the annual Induction Banquet scheduled for October 27, 2018, at the Creative Financial Centre, home of the cfd Companies (2704 South Goyer Road, Kokomo). Ticket information for the banquet will be announced later this month.

“Any of this year’s seven inductees have a strong enough resume to have been inducted previously, but that just shows how deep Howard County athletic history is,” said Hockney. “I am excited to hear them speak at our induction banquet in October – it is always a great evening for the sports community.”

Jacqueline Bagwell

Tennis: Jacqueline Bagwell is a 1980 Haworth High School graduate who excelled in tennis and basketball during the early years of girls sports being recognized by the IHSAA. But she gained fame as a tennis coach, where she led the Amherst College women’s tennis team to the 1999 NCAA Division III national championship. In 28 seasons, she amassed a 418-99 record and coached two singles and six doubles NCAA champions. She has also been named the Boston Sports Award Coach of the Year.

Mark Gabriel

Basketball: Mark Gabriel is a 1966 Kokomo High School graduate who was a standout in basketball for the Wildkats and at Hanover College. The 2001 Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame inductee averaged more than 20 points and 16 rebounds per game his senior season at Kokomo. At Hanover, he still holds the rare distinction of holding the career records for points (2,368) and rebounds (1,463) while being named an All-American twice – he still holds 14 individual records at Hanover, where his number is retired.
Gary Mumaw

Runner: Gary Mumaw is a 1972 Northwestern High School graduate. As a sophomore, he placed 13th in the state in cross country and followed that performance with an eighth-place finish as a junior while leading the Tigers to an IHSAA state runners-up finish, a feat they duplicated his senior season. He placed third at the IHSAA state track and field finals in the two-mile run. Mumaw ran track at Indiana State University before transferring to the University of Illinois, where he helped the Illini win a Big Ten title.

Mick Owens

Contributor and coach: Mick Owens played baseball for the Kokomo Highlanders and coached in the Kokomo Connie Mack league before founding the cfd Saints semi-pro baseball team. He coached the Saints to more than 400 victories, three semi-pro world series berths and two state championships. Owens was inducted into the National Semi-Professional Baseball Hall of Fame in 2013. Since then, he has supported local sports organizations through donations by the company he founded – cfd Investments.

Willard Rice

Football athlete and coach: Willard Rice is one of the most decorated football players in the history of Kokomo High School and Ball State University. A 1966 KHS graduate, his 2,400 yards passing is still fifth-best in school history, and he is one of three Wildkats to have a 300-yard passing game. At Ball State, Rice passed for 3,710 career yards, which is still 10th best all-time. As a coach, he led Eastern to an 88-82 record and a 68-62 record at Kokomo, which included three North Central Conference titles.

Cari Stover-Richards

Basketball: Cari Stover-Richards is a 1993 Kokomo High School graduate who was a member of the Indiana All-Star team. She played in 91 games for the Lady Wildkats and helped lead the squad to IHSAA state championships in 1992 and 1993. She finished her career with 923 points, 515 rebounds (third-most in school history), 142 assists and 130 steals. Stover-Richards played at Valparaiso University and was named to the Mid-Continent Conference All-Academic team in 1997.

Ricke Stucker

Runner and coach: Ricke Stucker is a 1965 Kokomo High School graduate who was a member of the cross country and track team. At Indiana University, he lettered in cross country. After graduating, Stucker returned to Kokomo and coached the Wildkats for 50 years with state finalists in four sports – boys and girls cross country and boys and girls track. He has been named an Indiana All-Star coach 10 times and is a member of the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame.