

ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME 2018 INDUCTEES



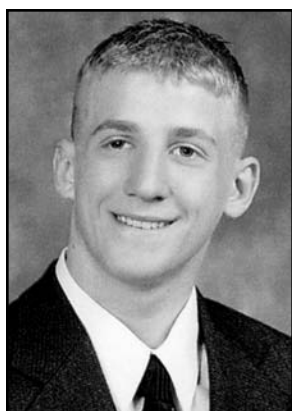
Stephanie Tuttle – 1995

Over the course of her stellar career at St. Mary, Stephanie Tuttle excelled in softball, basketball and soccer. Our inductee has the distinction of making three consecutive All-County Softball teams at three different positions. As a sophomore, Stephanie was named 1st Team-All League and 3rd Third-Team All-County as an Outfielder. As a junior, our inductee was named 1st Team-All League and 2nd Team All-County as a third baseman, and as a senior was named 1st Team-All-League and 2nd Team All-County as a Catcher. In 1995 Stephanie was selected to play in the prestigious Bergen-Passaic All-Star Game. During her time on the softball diamond, the Lady Gaels won three League Championships anchored by Stephanie's consistent and outstanding play.

Our inductee also has the distinction of playing on the first St. Mary Girls Soccer team and the first woman to be named to an All-League team earning 1st Team status at the goaltender position. Stephanie also played four years of basketball at the forward position and was a valued member of two League Championship teams

After graduation from St. Mary, Stephanie attended at Ramapo College where she played softball and is in the record books for single-season and career doubles. After Ramapo our inductee played three seasons as a catcher in the East Coast Women's Baseball League, in Parsippany, NJ, where her team reached the Roy Hobbs World Series played in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Stephanie has been in the restaurant business for the last 24 years and resides in Barnegat Bay, NJ.



Brian Innis – 2005

Brian Innis is one of the most celebrated wrestlers in St. Mary's history. Our inductee's wrestling resume at St. Mary's was a model of consistency and improvement. As a sophomore, Brian was named 1st Team All-League. As a junior wrestling in 145 lbs weight class, Brian was again named 1st Team All-League as well as 2nd Team All-County, 2nd Team All North Jersey All-Groups, 1st Team All-North Parochial, District Champion, and Regional Finalist. As a senior, moving up a weight class to 152, our inductee was elected 1st Team All-League, 2nd Team All-County, District Champion and winner the prestigious Regional Championship.

Brian was named Team Captain in both 2004 and 2005. He was a member of the 2004 and 2005 Non-Public B State Championship Teams. His career record was 90 wins and 25 losses and racked up a brilliant record of 50 and 9 over the course of his junior and senior seasons.

After St. Mary's Brian wrestled at Montclair State University admirably until his career was cut short due to injury. He returned to St. Mary's in 2006 as a volunteer assistant and contributed to the Gaels' third straight Non-Public B State. In 2007 Brian began coaching at St. Peter's Prep as an assistant wrestling coach and in 2015 took over St. Peter's Prep Wrestling as head coach.

Brian resides in Rutherford with his wife, St. Mary alumnae, Bernadette McPherson, and their son, William.



Sean Moran – 1977, Coach Award

Sean Moran was a graduate of St Mary's class of 1977. He participated in football and basketball during his athletic career at St. Mary, and started at tackle on the Gaels Hall of Fame 1976 State Championship team and the starting power forward on the basketball team. His coaching career began as assistant football coach in 1986 when he returned to his alma mater to help revitalize the football program after it was discontinued for a year.

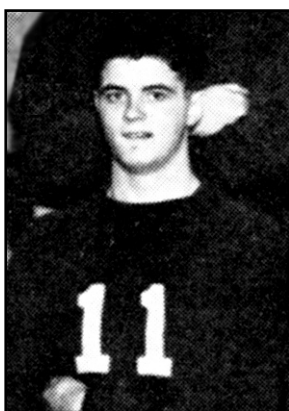
Coach Mo, as he was affectionately called, began his basketball coaching career in 1990 as the Head JV Coach, a position he held for the next 21 years. In addition to that post, he served as assistant varsity coach assigned to develop the "big men" in the program.

Throughout Coach Moran's twenty-one years coaching basketball at St. Mary, his JV teams were known for their toughness, their fast break style, and their tireless persistence. He demanded accountability from his players and received it. A fiery competitor himself, Coach Moran projected his desire for success to not only to his teams but to the entire basketball program.

Beyond the basketball court Coach Moran is remembered as someone who was always there for his players in times of need. Whether it was a ride home, bus fare, or a summer job with Coach Moran's landscaping business, Coach Mo always offered a helping hand and a persuasive kick in the pants when needed.

Over the course of twenty-one years Coach Moran left his indelible mark on an untold number of players, parents, coaches and alumni. His pride in St. Mary High School and all that it embodies, is something that will be remembered and cherished by all who were fortunate enough to call him coach and friend.

Sean Moran passed away in February of 2016. He is survived by his son, Sean Liam Moran, and a loving family.



Donald E. Boyd – 1938

Donald "Donnie" Boyd was four year performer in football and one of the school's pioneers in founding the Gaels football program. He was a member of the Gaels first winning season in 1934 and played quarterback until moving to end for his junior and senior seasons. In 1936 Donnie was named 1st Team All-State Group 2 Prep in recognition of heroics on the gridiron.

Following his athletic career at St. Mary, Donnie Boyd was a Marine Corp veteran of World War II, serving with the Marine Night Fighter Squadron in the Asia-Pacific theater. He received a citation from U.S. Navy Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz for meritorious and efficient performance of duty as turret gunner in the Bismarck Archipelago area from November 1943 to June 1944. During this period Mr. Boyd took part in seventy-nine night missions over Japanese territory, encountering anti-aircraft fire.

After his brave military service our inductee enjoyed a long and fulfilling career in the Matchbook industry working for Encore Sales Corp, Universal Match Co. and Superior Match Co. He was known as the "Match King" among colleagues for his longevity in the industry and his prolific designs of matchbook covers.

After settling Massachusetts, Donnie and his wife, Lucille Boyd, had 7 children, and enjoyed 14 grandchildren.

2000 & 2001 Parochial B State Sectional Championship Baseball Teams



Winning back-to-back New Jersey State Championships is not only an incredible accomplishment, but it is also very hard to do. Prior to 2000 and 2001, back-to-back State Championships had been achievements only twice before in St. Mary history. The group of young men who comprised the Gaels 2000 and 2001 baseball teams will always be remembered as a determined, close-knit group who used their underdog status to engineer a remarkable two-year stretch of baseball excellence and two consecutive State Sectional Championships.

The 2000 Gaels commenced their quest as the #5 seed in North Sectional. Pitching by Joe Reid and Justin Soccul and timely hitting produced victories over Montclair Kimberly 4-3, St. Mary's (Jersey City) 7-2 and a berth in the Sectional Final versus Bayley-Ellard. The Gaels scored a run in the first inning and Reid did the rest allowing only three singles and struck out fifteen batters in a 1-0 victory for the title.

The 2001 Gaels, facing a daunting retooling with only one returning senior, surprised the competition and finished the regular season with the #1 seed heading into the State Tournament. With ace, Justin Soccul, on the mound, the Gaels easily shut out St. Aloysius 8-0 and defeated Newark Academy 6-1 to set up a rematch with Bayley-Ellard for the North crown. Soccul again spun a nifty, four hit shutout in a 2-0 Gael win for the State Sectional Championship. The 2001 Gaels amassed a sizzling 22-8 record lifting them to a lofty #2 ranking in the Herald News and a #5 position in the Bergen Record Group 1 & 2 Poll.

Despite losing the overall State Championship games to powerhouse programs from South Jersey, the Gaels' 2000 and 2001 back-to-back State Championship squads are fondly recognized and applauded by the St. Mary Hall of Fame. Led by Hall of Fame coach, John Farley, and trusted assistant, Terry Kelleher, the members of the teams include Hall of Famers, Justin Soccul and Jeff Cruise, together with Mark Paiotti, Mark Illuzzi, Luca Diaz, Joe Reid, Fred Lepinski, Jon Fay-Hamilton, Aedan Stabile, Paul Seraidski, Brian Meyer, Russell Meyer, Steve Hydell, Dave Galka, Tom Bergen, Brian Galka, Chris Smith, C. Firstmeyer, Ryan Quirk, Ken Hernandez, Eddie Ryan, Joe Applegate, Mike Rivetti, Mike Chipko and Joe Smith.



Dana Lynn Jusino – 2002

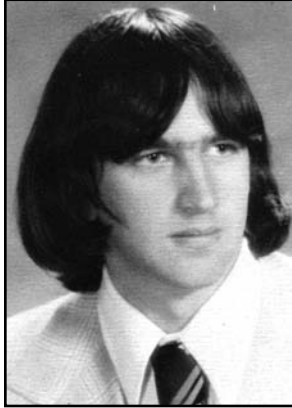
Dana Lynn Jusino was an outstanding performer and team leader at St. Mary in softball and basketball.

In softball, playing left field, Dana received 1st Team All-League and 2nd Team All-County honors in her junior year. As a senior Dana established herself as one of the best players in the state. In addition to being named 1st Team All-League, Dana earned 1st Team All-County, 1st Team All-North Jersey and 1st Team All-Area recognition. Serving as Team Captain, Dana hit .362 with 18 RBI, five doubles and one triple, and scored 15 runs while striking out just five times. Defensively, our inductee made just one error. Dana was a member of four consecutive League Championship softball teams, and played in the prestigious Bergen-Passaic All-Star game in her senior year.

In basketball, Dana received two varsity playing the Guard position. She was named Team Captain as a senior and was a member of two League Championship Teams in 2001 & 2002, reaching the Elite 8 in the Bergen County Tournament in 2002.

Dana received St. Mary's "Scholar Athlete Award" in her senior year for recognition of her outstanding performance in both the classroom and on the fields of the play.

After high school, Dana played Softball at Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Connecticut where she graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Athletic Training. After receiving her National Athletic Training Board of Certification, Dana attended Providence College where she received her Master's Degree and was a member of the Providence College Sports Medicine team providing medical care for the Friar softball team as well as working closely with the Women's Ice hockey team and the Men's Lacrosse team. Dana is currently in her 8th year as Head Athletic Trainer at Stratford High School in Stratford, Connecticut.



Michael "Mickey" Meyer – 1976

Mickey Meyer was an outstanding basketball player at St. Mary who dominated the hardwood both offensively and defensively. Following in his brother's footsteps, SM great, Wayne Meyer, Mickey quickly made a name for himself on the court. A versatile athlete, Mickey's 6'5" stature gave the Gaels an immediate advantage in every match up. Mickey easily transitioned up and down the floor, could shoot jump shots fluidly from the forward position, was strong enough to power up in the post position, and was one of the most aggressive rebounders of his era.

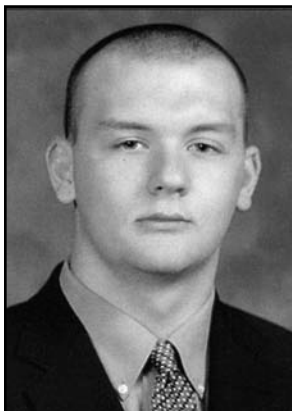
Mickey earned his starting position as a sophomore when Hall of Fame Coach, Joe Wladyka, recognized his abilities and potential. Under the tutelage of Hall of Famers, Moose Young, Dan Adams, and Jim Sheridan, Mickey quickly honed his skills and was voted Most Improved by his teammates and coaches that same year. He sharpened his skills with a tireless work ethic. His drive and determination to succeed was inspiring to younger teammates, and he was admired as a dedicated leader who would do anything it took to win.

Mickey led the '75 and '76 teams as captain and was Team MVP both years. "Mickmon" was the go-to-man in every crucial situation because the team, the coaches, and the fans knew he would produce. During his tenure, he led a young SM team as it faced some of the most formidable teams in the state including Paramus Catholic, Don Bosco, Dwight Morrow, Englewood, St. Anthony's, Jersey City, and St. Patrick's, Elizabeth. Every one of those games came down to the final buzzer, including the shocking victory over St. Pat's in 1976 in the State Tournament in which Mickey buried clutch baskets and dominated under the boards.

Mickey earned First Team All-League Honors in 1975 and 1976, and Honorable Mention All-County accolades in '76, while racking up over 900 career points despite a number of injuries that limited his playing time. After graduation, Mickey continued his basketball career at the Junior College of Albany.

Mickey married his wife, Janet, in 1981 and raised three children, Joseph, Jeffrey and Matthew. His love for his family and sports led him to coach youth basketball and baseball for years. His professional career in the pharmaceutical industry spanned over three decades.

Mickey, who was the epitome of a family man and sports enthusiast, passed away unexpectedly in June of 2014.



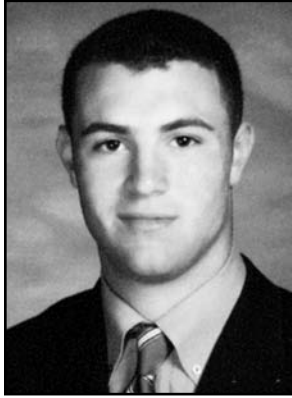
Michael P. Schmeding – 2005

An outstanding, physical and talented two sport letterman at St. Mary, Mike Schmeding excelled in football. Although quarterbacks, running backs, and wide receivers usually get the most attention on a football team, it is "big guys" like Mike Schmeding who move the offense down the field. At 6'9" 275, Mike was a big, strong and imposing tackle for the Gaels, leading a rushing attack that was always one of Bergen County's best. A four-year letter winner for Gaels' gridiron squad, Mike was twice named 1st Team All-League. In his senior campaign Mike established himself as one of the top tackles in the state, and garnered, 2nd Team All-County and 1st Team All-State Parochial honors. He was named to "Prep Football Report's" and "PrepStar's" All-East Teams and selected to "SuperPrep's" All-Northeast Team. He was rated among the East's top 75 prospects by "Prep Football Report" and ranked among New Jersey's top 40 seniors by "SuperPrep."

Mike also played defensive line for the Gaels recording 36 tackles and 3 sacks in his senior year.

Mike also wrestled for two seasons at St. Mary in the heavyweight class division where he compiled a career record of 21-7. He was named 1st Team All-League after his junior season and was a member of the Gaels Non-Public B State Championship Wrestling team in 2004

Mike accepted a full scholarship to Michigan State University to play football in the Big 10. Lettering in his senior year, he was known as a workhorse and team builder who could always be relied on by his teammates and coaches. Mike graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources and is currently an Applications Solutions Consultant with AT&T. He resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan with his wife, Amy, and their three children, Autumn, Aiden and Andrew.



Ryan J. Cuccinelli – 2007

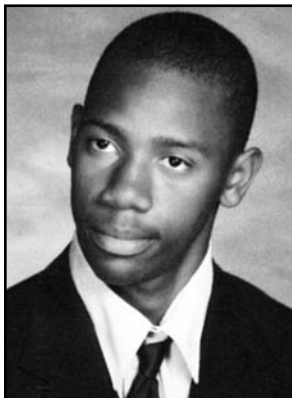
At 6'3, 220 lbs, Ryan Cuccinelli was an imposing figure on the football field, basketball court and baseball diamond.

In football, Ryan played tight-end on offense and linebacker on defense. A three-year starter. Ryan earned 1st Team All-County, 2nd Team All-State, and 1st Team All-League at the tight end position and 1st Team All-Area at Linebacker in his senior year. In the 2006 Non-Public Group B State Championship game against Paterson Catholic, Ryan recorded 14 solo tackles and 2 sacks in the Gaels' memorable 20-13 victory. For the season Ryan amassed 88 total tackles, 5 interceptions and 7 touchdowns. In recognition of his superlative, diversified play, Ryan was ranked the 24th best linebacker in New Jersey by MaxPreps.

In basketball, Ryan achieved 2nd Team All-County and 1st Team All-League honors in his senior year. He scored over 700 points in his career and was a member of the 2006/2007 BCSL League Championship team.

In baseball, Ryan was 2nd Team All-League performer as a Pitcher in both his junior and senior years, and an integral member the Gaels 2006 State Sectional Championship team. Over the course of his distinguished high school baseball career, Ryan struck out 265 batters, and spun 2 no-hitters and 6 shutouts.

After high school Ryan accepted a baseball scholarship to St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. Ryan currently works for NetApp as an Account Manager and resides in Hoboken with his wife, Kaitlin.



Da'Mon Merkerson – 2007

To be a great player, you may excel in one sport, but to be a great athlete you must dominate in multiple sports. Da'Mon Merkerson was a great athlete. The most accomplished track star in school history, Da'Mon was a 5-time Non-Public B State Champion. As a junior he won his first state championship in the 400 in 51.98 seconds. In his senior year Da'Mon repeated in the 400 with a stunning time of 48.07 and also won the 100 in 11.08 seconds, the 200 in 22.36 seconds and the 800 in 1.59. He capped off his senior campaign by winning 1st Place in the 400 at the Bergen County Meet of Champions setting a county record of 48.07 seconds and finished second in the 200. In recognition of his unparalleled track accomplishments, Da'Mon was named 1st Team All-County and 1st Team All-North Jersey in the 400.

In football, Da'Mon was a stellar two-way performer who achieved distinction as an All-County 2nd Team Defensive back as a junior and 1st Team All-County, 1st Team All-North Jersey, 2nd Team All-State Non-Public and 1st Team All-State Parochial at Defensive back and 1st Team All-Area at Wide Receiver during his senior campaign. Da'Mon made 28 solo tackles, six interceptions, 614 receiving yards and scored 14 touchdowns and was valued member of the Gaels 2006 Non-Public B State Championship football team. In the championship game Da'Mon snatched 5 receptions for 117 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Between his historical football and track seasons Da'Mon played 4 years of basketball and was voted 1st Team All-League as a senior.

After his career at St. Mary, Da'Mon accepted a football scholarship to Syracuse University where he played as a true freshman and earned 4 letters playing wide receiver and defensive back while appearing in forty-four games. Da'Mon was also a stalwart performer on the Syracuse track team for 3 years competing in the 400 meter dash and a number of relay teams. He double-majored in sociology and communication & rhetorical studies at Syracuse and later completed his master's degree in education at Arizona State. He participated in the 2011 Arizona Cardinals (NFL) training camp and went on to play for the Arizona Rattlers (AFL) in 2012 and 2013.

Da'Mon is currently the Assistant Director of the Resnick Academic Support Center at Temple University where he provides support services for the Temple football team. He also serves as the academic liaison to Temple's Career Center.

Da'Mon and his wife, Katherine, reside in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.