

4th Annual Nottingham Athletic HOF Class



Members of Nottingham's 1986 boys' soccer team, the first sectional champ in school history, were on hand en masse at the 4th Annual Hall of Fame Dinner. Included in the gathering were (From left) Coach Dave Dempster, Jon Snover, Warren Lewis, Chris Gervasio, Russ Terlecki, Jason Wingerter, Coach Jack Bell, Mike Edinger, Phil Peroni, "Officer" Quincy Hendryx, Dave Fowler, Sean Griffin and Ken Miranda (Photo by Wes "The Media" Mogul Kirkpatrick).

This story originally appeared in The Hamiltonian; with added comments from Russ Terlecki

Northstars' first sectional champ a highlight of successful HOF night

By Rich Fisher

Fish4Scores.com

Oct. 8: In 1986, Nottingham High School turned five-years-old.

If it were a person it would be in kindergarten, but school years are like dog years. By the time you're five, you need to be showing folks a few things.

That is true in academics, the arts and, of course, athletics.



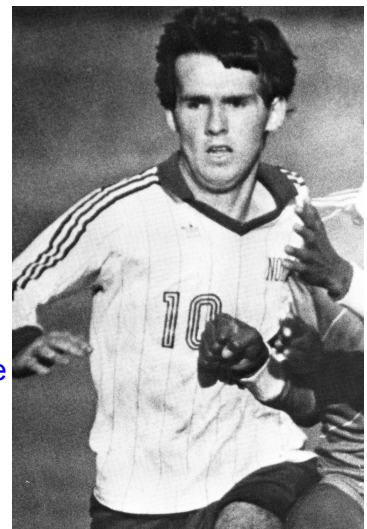
Erica Venslausky still holds several Northstar swim records.

In those first four years, aside from a few scattered quality teams here and there, the Northstars had not yet made an impression on New Jersey.

Then came the fall of 1986, and it all changed.

The Northstars boys' soccer team became the first team in school history to win at the state level when it claimed the NJSIAA Central Jersey Group III championship. Nottingham actually appeared ticketed for the state final but blew a large lead in the state semifinals.

Still, it could not take away from a magical season.



Sean Griffin was one of the top two midfielders in Mercer County soccer during his senior season.

That team, and several of its key components, were honored for their achievements as part of Nottingham's Fourth Annual Hall of Fame induction class, in front of a large and enthusiastic gathering at the Stone Terrace on Friday, Sept. 30.

The honorees were also recognized the following day at halftime of the varsity football game with Lawrence.

Also being inducted were the team's head coach, Jack Bell, and his assistant, Dave Dempster, along with midfielder Sean Griffin.

Overall, eight athletes were honored, along with three coaches and one special contributor.

The third coach was Nate Webber, while Glenn "Slike" Sliker was the special contributor. The remaining athletes included Dan Burnston, Nancy Cammisa, Dennys Delgado, Patti Foley, Ray Sharpley, Annick Lamar and Erica Venslausky.

The '86 team was one that slowly built its way to a Colonial Valley Conference power, improving each year and blossoming with an outstanding core of senior stars such as goalie David Fowler, defenders Jason Wingerter and Phil Peroni, and the high scoring trio of Jon Such, Russ Terlecki and Quincy Hendryx.

"Whenever you play for a winning team it is fun," said Terlecki, a 2009 HOF inductee. "The team definitely knew it had talent. But we worked hard to achieve as much as we could.

"Momentum is something that makes a team even more in itself. I think we did start to believe more and more as the season went on. "

Tying the whole team together was Griffin, who was



Annick Lamar was a track and cross country standout for Nottingham early in the 21st century.



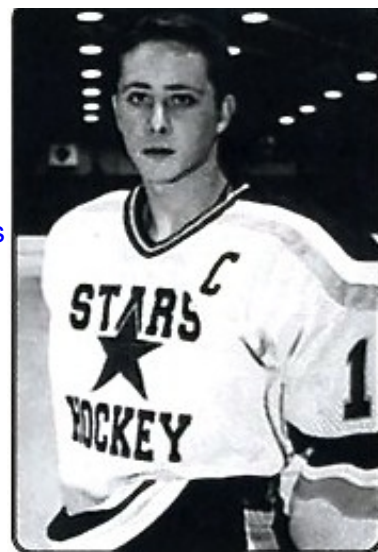
Dennys Delgado had his hand raised in victory 61 times at Nottingham and remains the school's lone two-time state qualifier.

the county's second best midfielder that year behind Hightstown All-American Jim Barlow. Griffin played both ends of the field with equal tenacity and savvy and set the tempo for Nottingham. He earned first-team All-State honors and still holds the school record for assists in a season and career.

One of the regular-season highlights for the team came when Griffin's Northstars gave Barlow's Rams their only regular-season loss as Hightstown would eventually make it to the Group IV championship game.

The leader of the group was Bell, who became Nottingham's first soccer coach after an outstanding run at Hamilton West. Bell's intensity was counteracted by Dempster's reserved manner on the sidelines as the two proved an effective tandem.

In fact, they led a team that made history with the school's first sectional title.



Dan Burnston was Nottingham's first star in ice hockey.

“It’s always an honor when you make history or break a record,” Terlecki said. “When you work hard to make it happen it feels even better.”

Bell stepped down after the 1987 campaign and moved to Steinert, becoming the only man to have coached all three high school varsity soccer teams. Dempster went on to become the head boys coach, and also served as head coach in girls soccer, baseball, wrestling and golf. He won five Coach of the Year honors in three different sports and also served as athletic director for one year.

Webber’s contributions to Nottingham are massive and varied. As a cancer survivor, he provided a shining example of courage and determination by beating the disease. On a more tangible level, he guided the Northstars boys’ basketball team to the best record in school history in 2000-01 as Nottingham won a sectional championship. He was a two-time Coach of the Year, and also coached cross country and track.



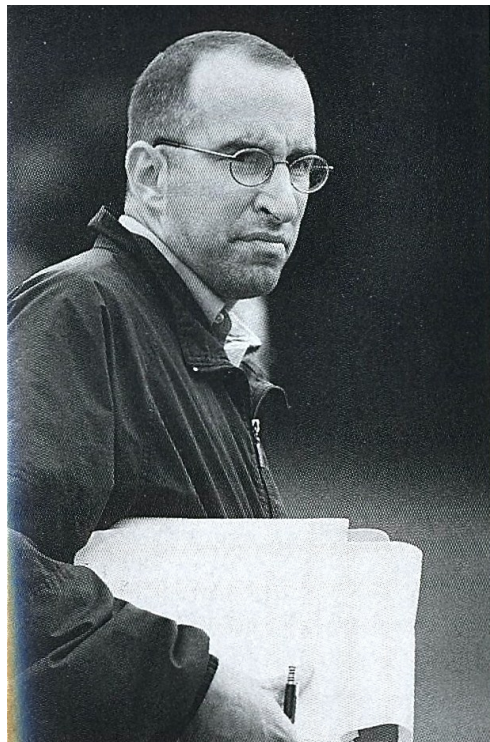
Patti Foley was the CVC Player of the Year and Keister Award winner as a senior.

As the school’s athletic director from 2004-07, Webber saw the need to celebrate a burgeoning athletic tradition at the school and initiated the inaugural Hall of Fame at Nottingham.

Burnston was the school’s first ice hockey star, setting records for goals in a season and career and points in a season and career (the career records were broken this year by Brenden Bendorf). He finished third in the state with 80 points as a senior, and also played tennis.

Cammisa led Nottingham’s softball team to three straight Mercer County Tournament titles and was named The Trentonian’s Player of the Decade for the 1990’s. Delgado dominated Mercer County wrestling, winning 61 matches in two years to help the Northstars to two CVC Colonial Division title. He remains the lone two-time state qualifier at Nottingham.

Foley, one of numerous female athletes of the same last name to excel at Nottingham, played basketball and softball and led Nottingham to the CVC Valley title in 2005. She was named the CVC Player of the Year as a senior and also received the Renee Keister Award at the Clarence O’Shea Scholarship Breakfast.



Nate Weber was an inspiration to Northstars athletes in the athletic arena and beyond.

Lamar was a dominating cross country and track & field performer from 2002-04. Venslausky excelled in swimming from 1995-98 and still holds numerous school records.

Sharpley played ice hockey and baseball and won 13 games in the 1989-90 seasons. In 1989 he accomplished the incredible feat of throwing no-hitters in consecutive games.

Sliker was the school’s first varsity football coach, and is being inducted due to his efforts to improve the quality of the athletic facilities at Nottingham.

For further information, details and photos of the 2011 Nottingham HOF induction class, log on to the website at www.northstarhalloffame.com.

[Click here for video of 2011 HOF introductions at halftime of 'Stars-Lawrence football game](#)

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