



# CARDINAL LOCAL SCHOOLS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 12, 2017

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### CARDINAL SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES 2017 HALL OF FAME CLASSES

New Athletic and Distinguished Alumni Members to be Inducted September 23, 2017

**Middlefield, OH** - 11 new faces will join the Cardinal Local School District Halls of Fame this fall. Seven new members will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame and four new members will join the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame on September 23, 2017. In addition, the district will also recognize the contributions of Richard Nordeen with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The 2017 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees are:

- **Don Soltis (1962)** – A three-sport athlete, Don Soltis played football, basketball, and baseball during all four years at Cardinal High School, earning a total of 8 letters. He was a two-time All Geauga County selection for football and was a member of the 1959 Geauga County Championship team. He was also a member of three Geauga County championship teams in baseball. After graduating from Cardinal, Soltis attended Hiram College, where he was a four-year letterwinner in football. He was awarded All-Ohio Athletic Conference honors twice as an offensive tackle. Soltis was a biology and chemistry teacher at Avon Lake High School, where he won three SWC championships and two regional championships as the head football coach. Soltis is a member of the Avon Lake Hall of Fame and is the only coach in the history of Avon Lake to win two different men's SWC championships in baseball and football.
- **Steve Marcu (1981)** – Steve Marcu was a standout athlete at Cardinal, playing football, basketball, and baseball. Marcu returned to Cardinal as the Head Boys Basketball coach for three years. Not only was he one of the top athletes in Cardinal High School history, Marcu continues to support the Cardinal athletic program in his father Nick's memory. Marcu has provided financial assistance to the Cardinal Athletic Department, the Cardinal Athletic Boosters, and the Youth Recreation Leagues.

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- **Joe Peters (1985)** – Earning 12 Varsity letters in three different sports during his Cardinal career, Joe Peters was an outstanding athlete at Cardinal, playing football, wrestling, and baseball. As a football player, Peters had great versatility. He was the leading scorer in football as a sophomore, junior, and senior. As a senior, he was the Huskies' leading passer, second leading receiver, third leading rusher, leading punt returner, and second leading kick returner. Peters was also a two time state qualifier in wrestling. In an outstanding baseball career, Peters is 3<sup>rd</sup> in career hits, 3<sup>rd</sup> in career triples, and is tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in career home runs (18) in Cardinal history. He is also tied for second with 23 career games won. After graduating, Peters played for 2 years at Lakeland Community College. He was always full of life and was a dedicated family man. His big smile just made everyone feel better. Peters coached youth sports for many years, valuing the last child on the roster equally as the best.
- **J. C. Trybus (1985)** – J.C. Trybus was an exceptional three sport athlete, playing football, basketball, and baseball all four years at Cardinal. He was a First Team ESC selection, First Team Geauga County selection, and an All Northeastern Lakes District selection for football as a senior. As a senior basketball player, Trybus earned 1<sup>st</sup> Team ESC, 1<sup>st</sup> team Geauga County, and 1<sup>st</sup> Team Northeast Ohio honors. In addition, he was named Player of the Year for Northeast Ohio and was a 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Ohio selection. In addition to excelling as an athlete, Trybus participated in the CHS Musical all four years, including playing the lead role three times. He also was a member of the Cardinares, Class President, and Class Valedictorian.
- **Matt Hamburg (1991)** – Matt Hamburg was a four time letterman in football and wrestling. He was a football team captain who won 1<sup>st</sup> Team all league honors twice and was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All District as a defensive end. He was the Geauga County Defensive MVP as a senior. Hamburg was a 2 time state qualifier as a wrestler and held a 36-1 record as a senior. After graduating from Cardinal, Hamburg attended Heidelberg College, where he was a four time letterman in wrestling and was named All Ohio Athletic Conference three times. Hamburg has coached wrestling for over 20 years in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was achieved 182 career victories, multiple top 10 teams, and over 20 state placers with 8 champions.

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- **Steve Smetana (1991)** – Steve Smetana was an outstanding baseball player at Cardinal. During his time at Cardinal, Smetana threw four no hitters and had a 1.50 ERA during his career. He also had a .545 batting average in 1991 to go along with a 6-1 record on the mound. After graduating from Cardinal, Smetana attended Kent State University where he was a four year letterwinner and was 1<sup>st</sup> Team All MAC in 1995. Steve pitched professionally in the Boston Red Sox organization until retiring in 2001.
- **Kurtis Fisher (1997)** – Kurtis Fisher earned nine varsity letters in Cross Country, Basketball, and Track. A true “student-athlete,” Fisher was a standout runner at Cardinal who was a captain for both the Cross Country and Track teams. He was a three time regional qualifier in Cross Country and was the first “back-to-back” First Team conference runner in school history. He was also First Team All Ohio as a senior. An excellent runner in track, Fisher was part of school record setting 4X1600 and 4X800 relay teams. After graduating from Cardinal, Fisher earned 10 varsity letters while competing in Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track at Methodist College in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Fisher has taught and coached, both in North Carolina and at Grand Valley High School in Orwell. He has had many experiences, but is proud of his Huskies roots. When competing against his alma mater, he wears red under his blue coaching shirt.

The 2017 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees are:

- **Darrell Nordeen (1966)** – After graduating from Cardinal, Darrell Nordeen earned a B. S. in Chemistry from Ohio Northern University in 1970. He was the Site Director and Vice President for Ticona Polymers in Bishop, Texas, when he retired as a senior executive after 33 years at Celanese Ltd. Over his career, Nordeen was known nationally and internationally for his work in leadership development, quality as a business strategy, organizational re-design, human resources, and environmental, safety, and health services. He spoke at a United Nations multi-national conference in Paris in 1988. Nordeen also served on multiple leadership boards and for various charities in South Texas. He is also very active as a Deacon and a volunteer at Retama Park Baptist Church in Kingsville, Texas.

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- **Colonel Jason Seyer (1990)** – Since graduating from Cardinal as co-salutatorian, Jason Seyer has distinguished himself as a leader. He attended Ohio Northern University, where he lettered four times in football, was an active member of ROTC, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He has served in the United States Air Force since 1994. His career includes assignments in Montana, North Dakota, California, Nevada, Korea, Washington D. C., and Rhode Island. Colonel Seyer was one of two officers selected for a nuclear weapons fellowship at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. He has also served as a flight commander, operations officer, executive officer, and squadron commander. He attended the Naval War College in 2014-2015, and was promoted to the rank of Colonel in 2016.
- **Christina Canfield (1994)** – During her career, Christina Canfield has made a difference in the lives of many people. After graduating from Cardinal, Canfield earned her nursing degree from Kent State University and joined the Cleveland Clinic. She continued her education, becoming an Adult Clinical Nurse Specialist, Critical Care Registered Nurse, and she is certified in ICU Telemedicine. She has led classes for students, written and initiated policies and procedures at the Cleveland Clinic, and presented at national conferences in Scotland, Canada, and across the United States. Canfield was a contributor as well as the editor for the book *Navigating Your Hospital Stay: A Guide Written by Expert Nurses*. She was part of the team that developed the Clinic's eHospital. The team was a finalist for the prestigious Sones Innovation Award in 2017. She is currently the Clinical Program Manager at the Cleveland Clinic.
- **Jayce Hein (1997)** – Jayce Hein pursued his dream and has had a successful career in the entertainment business. He co-wrote "Country Boys World" for Jason Aldean on his triple platinum, ACM Album of the year "My Kinda Party." Hein has also co-written songs performed by Gretchen Wilson, Casey James, David Fanning, Ira Dean, Nine Days, Jon Wolfe, Jordan Rager, and others.

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## 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award:

- **Richard Nordeen** – Richard (Dick) Nordeen started filming high school games in 1957 on the “old rock pile” behind the original high school. He used to wind up the 16mm camera to film practices, scrimmages, and games for Coach Verno. In 1965, Nordeen designed and built the “eagles nest,” which was fastened high on one of the light poles on the west side of the high school football field. The eagles nest remained in use for nearly 40 years. Nordeen continued to film until Coach Verno retired in 1983. For over 26 years, in every kind of weather, Nordeen was on the camera high in the eagles nest. After retiring from filming, Nordeen remained an avid Huskies fan for the rest of his life.