History was made in Orchard Park athletics on June 13, 2015 as the Quakers softball team captured the NYSPHSAA Softball Class AA State Championship. This was the Orchard Park Central School District’s first state title in any girls athletics competition.

With a lot of returning players and a strong JV system, we knew that we were capable of competing at a high level this season. The girls had high expectations due to the individual talent that each player displayed. After starting the season 6 and 4, the girls realized that things had to change if they intended on fulfilling their expectations. We devised a team motto, words that we lived by for the remainder of the season: “Never hope for it, more than you work for it”. We discussed the emphasis on team building, working together, and supporting our fellow teammates. We also utilized our failures/losses as motivation to work harder in practice and games. We finished the regular season winning 9 of the last 11 games. This carried us into sectionals feeling motivated through both our success and our team camaraderie. This was Orchard Park’s first sectional and regional titles, in softball, since 1994. The Quakers were also a NYSPHSAA scholar-athlete team.

Seeing the girls’ demeanor on championship Saturday was what truly made this team special. You would never have thought that teamwork was an early season struggle. The girls did not show one sign of defeat or negativity, even when they were down early in both games. All you could see were the smiles, laughs, and cheers in the dugout and the concentration, focus, and passion on the diamond. The girls became sisters and their unbridled enthusiasm is what led us to winning 14 of our last 16 games, averaging 12 runs per playoff game, and lifting the state championship plaque.

Even though we will be losing seven exemplary seniors, our returning players have an unparalleled championship experience and team unity to propel them into next season.

-Brittany Bonetto, Coach

The team consisted of the following members:

**Seniors:** Rachel Johnson (Washington-Jefferson), Shaye Swiatek (University of Albany), Molly Hennessy (St. Bonaventure University), Katie Weimer (University of Buffalo), Sarah Kubik (St. John Fisher), Ali Darling (Stonybrook), Kaylee Jentsch (Houghton)

**Juniors:** Katie Luchowski, Lydia Petricca

**Sophomores:** Alex Sheehy, Penny Lenard, Peyton Hillis, Amber Piniewski, Alyssa Piniewski, Sam Frappa, Lauren Miller

**Freshmen:** Lilly Wosniak, Madison Stewart, Elizabeth Nicomento

**Coaches:** Brittany Bonetto and Josh Dannecker
Throwback to...1980

Orchard Park Varsity Softball Team

Pictured above: Coach Harris Wienke, meeting with his varsity softball team, during the 1980 season.

- Only one league game loss that season
- 1980 Section VI champions
- Rankings, at that time, were not used
- When playing non-league games, Coach Wienke always played the non-starters for the first 5 innings
- Upstart of girls sports (mostly varsity only)

Harris retired from varsity coaching in 1984. In addition to coaching, he began his sports officiating career in 1970 with baseball. Over the years, he officiated baseball, softball, football, girls basketball, and field hockey. He currently still officiates football.

“Ambitious goals make for outstanding achievements.”

-Nike
Brianna Tutuska, Eden - Division 2
Discus - 1st Place NYSPHSAA

Matt McLaughlin, Mike Durant, Mike Coatsworth, and Jack Zagrobelny
4x400 Meter Relay Team - 1st Place NYSPHSAA
East Aurora - Division 2

Alden High School Junior Hailey Rospierski traveled to the University of Albany for her second appearance at the New York State Track and Field Championships. Last year, she took 3rd place in the D2 100 hurdles and 1st place in the D2 high jump. In 2015, Hailey won the 100 meter hurdles for Division II by almost half a second. She broke the school record again (which belonged to her) with a time of 14.66 seconds. Her time also qualified her to compete in the Federation race a couple hours later in the day. Before running that race, she began competing in the high jump. She cleared her opening two heights but had to return to the track to run in the Federation 100m hurdles. Rospierski placed 6th. Returning to the high jump, Hailey could not clear her next height. However, the 5'2" she had cleared prior to the hurdles placed her 3rd in Division II.

Rospierski led the girls track and field team in dual meet points earned this year. She was the Letterman’s Award winner. As a junior who has already competed in two state track championships AND is a two-time state champion, the expectations for Hailey going into her senior year are high.

-Ken Partell

Brianna Tutuska, Eden - Division 2
went to Albany this year for the New York State championships and took 1st place in Division 2. Brianna works and achieves at everything she does. She began this year with goals of improving her shot and disc throws, and achieved and set new goals each week. She hit the weight room hard, focused, and determined. She went into States ranked #1, and never let up once she got there. Brianna was also a member of Eden’s State Championship Volleyball team this year, as well as the salutatorian of her class. There is truly nothing beyond her reach that she puts her mind to.

-Randall Perison, Coach
**State Champions**

**Track**

**Sam Wray, Starpoint - Division 1**

Discus - 1st Place NYSPHSAA, 1st place New York State Federation; 4th Place at NB Nationals (All American Honors)

Junior Sam Wray had an outstanding year! Sam began the season by traveling to the Penn Relays where he received Personal Best throw of 169’7, placing 7th. During the regular season, Sam continued his winning ways. At the ECIC championships, Sam took first place with a Section VI record throw of 193’8”, which was recognized by Mile Split as the fourth best throw in New York State history. Sam faced some adversity at the Section VI Track and Field Championships held at Niagara Wheatfield HS, where he took his first loss of the season to Colin Blair, a very talented thrower from Lancaster High School. His hard work, determination, and attention to detail allowed him to overcome that disappointing loss with wins in Albany at the state championship meet, where he became the New York State and Federation champion. The following week, he traveled to the New Balance Outdoor National Championship meet held in Greensboro, NC, where he placed 4th overall and earned All-American Honors.

-Steven J DeWolfe, Coach

**Tapestry - Division 2**

4x100 Meter Relay - 1st Place NYSPHSAA

The Tapestry Charter School Girls Track and Field team had its most successful season ever and also made history along the way. Taylor Alston became the first female at Tapestry to win a sectional championship; winning the 100m. But, she was not alone. Taniya Jamison finished 2nd, Taylor Hunter finished 3rd, and 8th Grader Nia Stevens finished 4th overall in the 100m. That is believed to be the first time a school has placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th in an individual event. Taylor Alston went on to finish 5th overall in Division 2 at the state championship track meet in Albany. Taniya Jamison finished 14th overall.

The 4x100m relay of Nia Stevens, Taylor Alston, Taniya Jamison, and Taylor Alston continued their magical run by winning their first ever relay title at the sectional championship meet. They topped that by becoming Division 2 state champions with a new school record time of 48.39, and finished 5th overall in federation, which means they are the 5th fastest 4x100m in the state. They are the only small school in the state to make it to the federation final and did it with an 8th and a 9th grader. They were also the only Section VI school to compete in the federation championship. This is the first girls Buffalo 4x100m state championship in at least 14 years.

-Dan Tryon, Coach

“The glory of sport comes from dedication, determination and desire. Achieving success and personal glory in athletics has less to do with wins and losses than it does with learning how to prepare yourself so that at the end of the day, whether on the track or in the office, you know that there was nothing more you could have done to reach your ultimate goal.”

-Jackie Joyner-Kersee
Regional Champions
Baseball
Hamburg - Class A

Team Captains: Cameron Ringo, David Edie, Brian Bermingham

"WIN THE NEXT PITCH" was the rallying cry for a bunch of Bulldogs determined to make history. After reaching the Far West Regionals in 2008 and 2011, this year's team broke through and advanced to the state semi-finals for the first time in school history. Led by the 1-2 pitching combo of Cam Ringo & Jake Mertowski and the power hitting of David Edie; the Bulldogs took their program, school, and community on one wild ride through the regular season and playoffs!

The season began in Atlanta, GA where Hamburg practiced and scrimmaged for six days against some of the best talent in Georgia. Upon returning home, the Bulldogs went on to finish 13-1 in the ultra-competitive ECIC Division II, which is home to at least 3 Division I commits as well as several Division II and III talents. Heart is hard to measure, but there's no denying that it was plentiful as Hamburg came from behind for 6 of their wins. The theme of league play was our depth of pitching as Shawn Filas, Brian Bermingham, Justus Hoffman, Ryan Dils, Jeff Salerno, and Jason Lucarelli carried the load. Of course, no baseball season is complete without timely hitting and great defense. Walk-off excitement was supplied by Tosh Johnson and Dan Reilly who had clutched game-winning RBI's over league rivals. We also showcased our best defensive infield, anchored by First Baseman Brian Bermingham, Second Baseman Ryan Dils, Shortstop Austin O'Shee, and Third Baseman Griff DeMayo, who continuously made game-changing plays.

Our regular season highlight was a monster one as the Bulldogs defeated crosstown rival Orchard Park, 3-2, a week before the postseason. In a non-league matchup of ECIC champions, Cam Ringo took the mound for what would become a career defining performance. The Binghamton bound senior threw 5 innings of scoreless baseball with 10 strikeouts against the number one ranked AA team in the state. David Edie hit a RBI double in the third before Griff DeMayo hit a bases loaded two-out double in the fifth. The magical playoff run began with a quarterfinal win over Sweet Home, 8-5, with Jake Mertowski getting the win in three playoff wins on the mound. They then defeated Williamsville East in the semifinals with Cam Ringo pitching a complete game 2-hit shutout with 11 strikeouts. Jason Lucarelli wowed the fans when he hit a triple in the fifth inning and then proceeded to steal home on the very next pitch. In the A1 finals, Jake Mertowski stymied a dangerous Kenmore East lineup while David Edie hit the game-winning RBI with two outs in the 5th inning.

Orchard Park - Class AA

Overall Record: 22-2
League Record: 12-0
Captains: Andy Sipowicz, Brandon Nicholson, & Jeff Palczewski

Orchard Park (OP) had an outstanding season in 2015 by capturing the ECIC Division I title with a 12-0 record. OP then went on to win the Section VI title by defeating Niagara Falls, 8-7, and advanced to the state playoffs with a 4-3 victory over McQuaid in the Far West Regionals. A tough 6 to 5 loss to Saratoga Springs in extra innings in the state semfinals left OP with a 22-2 overall record. The Quakers finished the season as the top ranked large school in Western New York. It was the Quakers first trip to the state playoffs since winning the state title in 1988.

The Quakers were led by Pitcher/First Baseman Andy Sipowicz who won 5 games on the mound and hit .447 (34-76) as he was named First Team All-WNY. Senior, Short Stop Brandon Nicholson hit .513 (41-80) as he also made First Team All-WNY. Juniors and Pitchers Ben Wereski and Jacob Lewis each won 5 games while Seniors Matt Wright and Jeff Biddle won 3 games each.

The Quakers also impressed at the plate as Junior, Third Baseman Jeff Palczewski hit .408 (31-76), Sophomore, Outfielder Troy Banks hit .448 (26-58), Senior, First Baseman/DH Jake Dogal hit .426 (23-54), Junior, Centerfielder Jake Woodrich hit .442 (23-52), and Catcher Kevin Koziol hit .444 (8-18). The Quakers also had Starters Austin Bristol (2B), Cole Hollins (RF), Luke Kuczewski (C), Marty Hackford (OF), and Mark Lauria (LF) - all of whom hit over .300.

In the field, Second Baseman Austin Bristol stood out as he did not commit an error all season and made many spectacular plays to lead the Quakers defensively. Centerfielder Jake Woodrich also stood out as he made many great running/sliding/diving catches. Third Baseman Jeff Palczewski was also tremendous in the field as he has great range and an outstanding accurate arm.

The Quakers 22-2 record this season gave OP a two year record of 40 and 5 as the Quakers captured their second straight ECIC Division I title and their fourth in the last five years!

-Derek Hill

Front: Evan Chaffee, Will Chaffee, First Row: Coach Steve Chaffee, Asst Coach Tyler Shaw, Dan Reilly, Tristan Giordano, Josh Wicinski, Ian Wilson, Austin O’Shei, Ryan Dils, Jeff Salerno, Jake Storey, Trent Bell, Coach Bryan Hansen. Back Row: Asst Coach Mark Fregelette, Asst Coach Shane Rainman, Kyle Munro, Griff DeMayo, Brendan Maurer, Justus Hoffman, Shawn Filas, David Edie, Brian Bermingham, Cam Ringo, Jake Mertowski, Tosh Johnson, Jason Lucarelli, Griff Coppola, Mitch Beiler, Coach Derek Hill.

This theme would continue in the crossover Class A finals in a showdown of the top two pitchers in Section VI as Cam Ringo took on Olean and their star pitcher, Evan Threehouse. A crowd of approximately 400 witnessed one of the greatest pitching duals in Section VI history. With the score tied, 0-0, in the bottom of the 8th, Austin O’Shei drew a walk that forced Olean to change pitchers. Three pitches later, David Edie did what every little leaguer dreams of as he hit a walk-off home run over the leftfield fence under the lights to propel Hamburg into the Far West Regionals. In the Regionals, Hamburg’s bats were hot as they defeated Honeoye Falls-Lima, 7-3, and threatened to score many more. Jake Mertowski was dominant on the mound before Cam Ringo came in to get the save. Advancing to the state final four for the first time, Hamburg fell to a tough Queensbury team from Section II, but did not go down without a fight. The Bulldog hitters lined-out a season high eight times without striking out once; it simply was not meant to be. The 2015 version of Hamburg baseball wrote a very special story, built on the efforts of preceding classes, that will carry on for years to come. Their legacy is one full of heart and toughness as they filled their school and community with BULLDOG PRIDE!

-Jim Gibson, Coach
Regional Champions
Softball

Alden - Class B

Alden made school history by earning its first trip to the state semifinals, and it did so in memorable fashion. Alden led 3 to 1 going into the bottom of the 4th inning with key RBIs from Megan Hassenbohler and Sara Pasternack. Bath then took the lead for the first time, 4-3, in the bottom of the 6th inning. Alden rallied with key hits in the top of the 7th inning starting with a home run from Laura Kratzke, which tied the score, 4-4. Freshman Sara Pasternack followed with a single, which was followed by a single by Sophomore Brooke Strausbaugh. Sophomore Anne Kocher worked a walk to load the bases, and Junior Morgan Rutan was hit by a pitch to give Alden its 5 to 4 lead. In the bottom of the 7th inning, Bath had a runner on base, but Alden pulled off a tremendous defensive double play started by Second Baseman Jenna Wlostowski who threw to First Baseman Megan Hassenbohler for the second out. Quick thinking by Megan whose throw to shortstop Alyssa Gadd allowed her to swipe her glove to the right to tag the base runner out. Pitcher Laura Kratzke, pitched a complete game, tossed an 8 hitter and struck out 7 for the win. Alden's record now stands at 20 wins and 3 losses.

- Jeffrey J Kryszczuk, Coach

Starpoint - Class A

The Starpoint Girls Softball team had their most successful season in over 25 years with a 23-3 record and reached the state semi-finals for the first time since 1986. The team won the Grand Strand's Classic in Myrtle Beach and was the ECIC Division II Champion with a record of 13-1. For the third year in a row, the Spartans were in the sectional title game, and this year, they defeated Williamsville East by a score of 9-0. The team moved on to play Pittsford-Mendon in the Class A Far West Regional game. The Spartans defeated them, 7-0, to advance to the state tournament in South Glens Falls. The girls performed admirably in the state semi-final against Clarke High School from Long Island, but ultimately fell by a score of 3-2. The game was a hard fought contest and both teams had chances to score. Overall, it was a historic season for Starpoint!

-Joe Hill, Coach
The championship game between Holland and number one seeded Gowanda was a classic. Gowanda scored 2 in the first, but Holland came right back (as they did throughout the playoffs) and scored 4 in the top of the 3rd. Jake Ratajczak singled home 1 run and Senior Cooper Rahn cleared the bases with a triple. Gowanda added 3 more runs in the bottom of the 2nd to take a 5-4 lead. However, Holland scored 7 runs in the top of the 3rd inning to lead 11-5. After 4 walks led to 1 run, Junior Neil Finley drove in 2 runs and Freshman Josh Ratajczak and Rahn each singled in 1 run. Corey Winter topped off the inning with a 2 run triple.

Gowanda kept coming back, scoring 4 runs against starting pitcher Pierce Gardon, cutting the lead to 11-9. Finley relieved Gardon and escaped without any further damage. Finley held Gowanda to 1 run over 3 innings. In the 6th inning, EJ Staniszewski tripled and scored Holland's 12th run with a double.

In the 6th, Finley gave up a run to make it 12-10, but Staniszewski came on to end the inning. Gowanda loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the 7th. A sacrifice fly scored a run to make it 12-11 with two men on (2nd and 3rd) and one out. The next batter hit a two hopper to Staniszewski who got the runner on third in a rundown and eventually out. On the next pitch, the runner from third tried to steal home, but was tagged out by Ratajczak; ending a 52 year drought in sectional play for Holland!

Maryvale - Class B

The 2015 Boys Varsity Baseball team finished the season with a 15 win and 8 loss record. This year, the team won 12 of their last 14 games of the season. This record included a 5 and 1 record in the Section VI Playoffs. The team started their run with a 12 to 3 win over 10th seeded Albion at home. They then defeated #2 seeded East Aurora (6 - 5) in extra innings in the quarterfinals. The team followed that by defeating #3 seeded Springville (9 - 5) in the semifinals. The boys then defeated #8 seeded Eden (5 - 3) to capture their first B1 championship since 1990. The team went on to play Fredonia in the overall final and defeated #1 ranked Fredonia (3-2) to become the overall Section VI Class B Champions. The team lost to the state's number one seeded Livonia in the Far West Regional tournament, but not before securing a reputation of never giving up and winning the close game.

The accolades for the team include First Team Division III All-Star status for Anthony Hernandez, Nick Koscinski, and Joel Krywcun. Second Team honors went to Mike Benthien and Zach Nelson. Honorably mentioned by the coaches were Mason Frazer and Sean McCarthy.

Many Maryvale records were set by several players such as the eleventh highest batting average for a season by Anthony Hernandez with a .467. Anthony also moved into a three-way tie at sixth place with 51 strikeouts for a season. Our biggest changes to the record books came with Joel Krywcun who moved into a five-way tie for eighth on the career doubles list with 11. Joel also moved into third place in a recent category for all time stolen bases in a career with 17. Most of Joel's accomplishments came on the defensive side of the ball where he was an exceptional pitcher. He is now fourth all-time for strikeouts in a career with 165 and holds a tie for fifth place with a season high total of 72. Joel also moved into a four-way tie for most wins in a career with 8 and added another no hitter to his resume. He threw his first Maryvale no hitter last year. His record breaking season ends with moving into second place all-time for pitching appearances at 25 and innings pitched at 122 1/3. Record breaking years tend to go hand in hand with the type of season it was and both players were key in the overall success of the team.

Awards followed the trend of the key players who made a difference in the success of the team. The Most Improved Player was Sean McCarthy who improved so much that he batted .471 in the games he batted in. Pitcher of the Year was Joel Krywcun with an ERA of 1.99 and Batter of the Year was Anthony Hernandez with an average of .467. The team's Co-Most Valuable Players were Joel Krywcun and Anthony Hernandez.

"The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination."

-Tommy Lasorda

Please follow us on Twitter @Section VI
The Akron Tiger lacrosse team successfully defended their title as Class C champions in Section VI following a 30-13 rout of the Silver Creek Knights. Although the team was defeated by Section V’s Penn Yan Mustangs again in the Far West Regional, ending their bid for a berth at the state championship, they earned many individual honors as well as national recognition as a team devoted to respecting the heritage of the game of lacrosse.

Senior, attack stand-out, Larson Sundown was the team’s 2015 points leader with 202 total (114 goals and 88 assists) for the season. This school record, along with 308 career assists, also puts Sundown first in the New York State lacrosse record books. He also ranks second in NYS for career points (641) and season total goals (114) and fourth for career goals with 333. Sundown earned US Lacrosse® New York - Buffalo area All-American honors for the second year and is joined by Senior and teammate Chaunce Hill for this prestigious selection. Sundown was also selected for the second year to the 1st Team All-Section VI (formerly All-WNY), 1st Team All-League Class C, and Class C Player of Year in addition to Buffalo News Prep Talk Lacrosse Player of the Year.

Long Stick Midfielder Chaunce Hill’s academic record as well as his lacrosse skills earned him a $10,000 scholarship from the Tewaaraton Foundation, a national non-profit organization that honors the historical and contemporary contributions the Haudenosaunee Native Americans have made, and continue to make, to the game of lacrosse. Hill was awarded the scholarship during an expense paid trip to Washington, DC and the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian. Hill was named to the 1st Team All-Section VI for a second year and 1st Team All-League Class C in addition to his selection as US Lacrosse® New York-Buffalo area All-American. Chaunce was also named Honorable Mention for the Section VI spring season All-Western New York Scholar-Athlete.

Coach Bryan Bellis was honored by the Section and US Lacrosse® as “Coach of the Year” for the New York-Buffalo area. Bellis, who has been coaching the Tigers’ varsity lacrosse team for seven seasons, has a 91 win - 51 loss record. He’s taken his team to the Class C Sectional Championship game the last four years and has won the title the last two.

Individual accolades for the team continue. Earning Second Team All-Section VI honors are Freshman Owen Hill at midfield with a 72% win record at the face-off and Senior, Mid-fielder Geffrey Besser. Besser, Hill, and Junior Gates Abrams join Sundown and Chaunce Hill for selection to the 1st Team All-League Class C. Lee Abrams, Alex George, Aynsley Loran-Pragle, and Jarrett Trzenski earned 2nd Team All-League Class C honors and Jared Siska and Frank Uebelhoer were given Honorable Mention.

The team went undefeated this season until the loss to Penn Yan, beating Class A Clarence and Class B Niagara Wheatfield, Williamsville North, and Williamsville South, as well as St. Francis High School in non-league play, in addition to the regular Class C contests.

Seniors Larson Sundown, Chaunce Hill, and Geoffrey Besser were chosen to play for the North Team of the Section VI Exceptional Seniors Showcase game held June 10th at Williamsville South. Sundown was named North Team Most Valuable Player.

-Sharon Catalano, Asst. Public Relations Director
The 2015 Hamburg Boys Lacrosse team won the school district’s 8th Class B championship in 9 years. We aspire to be in the local final game every year and to give our boys a chance to add to our program’s legacy. Much credit should go to my assistant coaches who selflessly dedicate their time and energy to the development of the boys. Thank you to Mark Muskopf, Caleb Severino, Pat DiMatteo, Dale Wesoloski, and Mike Moran. Their efforts do not go unappreciated. An extremely supportive HCSD Athletic Department and our off-season lacrosse club, HYL Inc. should receive just praise, as well. The Hamburg community should be proud of the families who work behind the scenes to assist in these efforts every year.

An undefeated Class B season brings Hamburg’s local record to 59-0, a winning streak we constantly strive to protect. It is the willingness of our athletes to play for the Bulldogs of the past, which drives us. The sense of pride that comes from our graduates is very comforting and motivating.

Our efforts outside of our Class B schedule were not successful regarding wins, but valuable considering growth and playoff readiness. Our annual spring trip saw us lose 2 close games to top 10 Virginia high schools (Chantilly, Westfield) by 3 goals total. The 4 day, 3 night 2015 trip was another amazing experience for the boys. Our games against Rochester teams (Canandaigua, Webster Thomas, Victor) also registered losses, but gave us challenging competition. We will continue to schedule teams of this caliber with the intention of playing the best.

End of year honors went to five deserving young men:
2nd Team All Section VI - Jordan Kuss (Goalie) and Will Agate (Defense)
1st Team All Section VI - Jim Duffy (Attack) Evan Hollfelder and Brendan Ryan (Midfield)
All American- Evan Hollfelder
Thanks for another memorable journey, boys...on to the next.
Jerry Severino, Coach

“Victory is remembered for at most two decades; an act of good sportsmanship is remembered for a lifetime.”

-Simon Nguyen
Sectional Champions

Boys Tennis

Jack McClaren
East Aurora - Singles

Jack had a great season at first singles for East Aurora, finishing 13-0. He did not drop a set the entire season, and he never lost more than 2 games in any set. As a result, Jack was seeded #1 at the ECIC singles tournament. He had a great tournament, not losing a single game until the semifinal. He won the ECIC championship, defeating Mike Kessler of Williamsville North 6-1, 6-4 in the final.

Jack was again seeded #1 for the Section VI singles tournament the following week. He once again cruised to the final, not dropping a set. He played Mike Kessler again for the Section championship and won 7-6, 6-2. It was a great victory for Jack, earning a spot to go the state championships at the National Tennis Center in New York City for the second straight year. His goal is to repeat as Section champion next year and earn another trip to the state championships.

-Zander Korach & Dan Freilicher
Orchard Park - Doubles

Last year, Senior Zander Korach and Junior Dan Freilicher, hoping to join teammates Tommy Baldinger and Kevin Zablonski for the trip to the state championships, were painfully denied that opportunity because they placed 4th, losing in three sets to Bryce and Jack Payne from Panama. Wanting to do something better since that day, they won the ECIC title and the Section VI doubles title and that coveted seat on the plane without losing a set. CONGRATULATIONS!

-John Hycner, Coach

USA Football

On June 8th 2015, Section VI sponsored a “Heads Up Player Safety Coach” Football Clinic for all area high school football programs. The clinic was held at Buffalo State College. A special thanks goes out to Athletic Director/Head Football Coach Jerry Bayes, Christian Ozolins, and Brent Ford for opening their facility to host this event.

The “Heads Up” program is a national program, which has been developed by USA Football in conjunction with the NFL, the American Football Coaches Association, Korey Stringer Foundation, and the Center for Disease Control. The focus of the program is to create a safer game by further educating coaches in the areas of concussion awareness, heat & hydration, proper equipment fitting, and the “Heads Up” tackling / blocking techniques.

Over 80 local high school coaches volunteered their time to become trained as a Player Safety Coach for their program. Each coach attended the all-day clinic and will now have the capability to train all coaches, players, and parents in their respective schools in an effort to create a better and safer game for all.

This is the second year Section VI has hosted a Player Safety Coach Clinic. The attendance has almost doubled from the first year, which demonstrates the commitment of the football programs in WNY. Congratulations go out to the Section VI Coaches for their continued dedication.

-Ken Stoldt, Section VI Football Chairman
After falling short of our goals the previous spring (2014), we were determined to reclaim the Section VI Class C Title. The girls put in a lot of time and hard work into our team in the off-season, including tournaments throughout Western and Central New York. Led by Captains McKenna Rushford, Angelina Simon, and Kathryn Yoder; this team reclaimed the Section VI Class C title, giving our program its 15th Section VI Title!

The late March wind and snow did not stop us from beating a good Frontier (Class A finalist) team in overtime, led by Brittany Perdziak's 8 saves in goal. Our next big game was a rematch with our league rival and defending Section champion Lake Shore. We cruised to an 11-3 victory, but we knew Lake Shore would continue to get better throughout the season, and we would probably face them two more times. Then we had our Friday night lights showdown with reigning Class B champion Hamburg at their place. Both teams came in highly ranked in WNY, and the action on the field lived up to the hype. There was plenty of scoring in the first half, with Amherst taking a 7-6 lead at the break. Amherst held the upper hand in the second half as well, and we prevailed with a 9-7 win. McKenna Rushford (3 goals, 2 assists), Angelina Simon (3 goals), Chloe Cotton (2 goals, 1 assist), and Kathryn Yoder were instrumental in the win. The next game saw us on the road again, this time against reigning Class A Champ Lancaster. A slow start really put us in a hole, as we allowed Lancaster to take a 5-0 lead. However, our girls were not about to be embarrassed, and they fought back. Down 7-4 at the half, we turned the tables on Lancaster and won the second half 7-4, setting up two sessions of overtime between the top two teams in WNY. Costly mistakes were too much to overcome, and Lancaster won 13-11.

There was no time to rest, for we had a big trip to Lake Shore that week. Yet again, we got in a hole in the first half, allowing Lake Shore to build an 8-5 lead. A couple of halftime adjustments seemed to work, as we limited Lake Shore to 3 goals over the final 31 minutes of play and sent the game into overtime. This game was won (11-10) by our Captains Kathryn Yoder (3 goals), Angelina Simon (2 goals, 1 assist), and McKenna Rushford (3 goals). Kathryn Yoder had the game tying and game winning goals. We then traveled east on the thruway to take on Section V Class A Mercy. Amherst won 15-7, and five different players had 3 or more points that game, led by Senior Angelina Simon (4 goals, 1 assist) and Sophomore Camryn Sullivan (2 goals, 3 assists).

An undefeated finish in league play ensured us of the regular season league title, and we were ready for another matchup with Lake Shore for the Section VI Class C title. After trading goals throughout the first half, it was Amherst who went on the late 1st half run and held an 8-5 lead at half. It was more of the same in the second half, as we built a 13-8 lead before Lake Shore scored two late goals, but it did not matter. The Amherst Tigers reclaimed their blue patch and won the 2015 Section VI Class C title 13-10! Unfortunately, our season ended in the Far West Regionals to eventual state runner-up HFL, 19-10. We finished 17-2, 12-0 in league play, 19th in NYS Class C Rankings, top scoring offense in WNY, 2nd best goals allowed/game in WNY, 1st in Scoring Margin. US Lacrosse All American: McKenna Rushford (1st Team), Kathryn Yoder (HM). ALL WNY: Angelina Simon (2nd Team), McKenna Rushford (1st Team), Kathryn Yoder (1st Team).

-Andrew Karpinko, Coach
Lancaster Girls Lacrosse became Section VI, Class A Champions for the 4th year in a row, defeating Frontier, 12-8, on Thursday, May 28th at All-High Stadium in Buffalo, New York. This is the 10th championship they have won in the past 11 years. Grace Gabriel, Lancaster's leading scorer (80 goals) had 5 goals in the championship game and 11 draw controls.

Grace is heading to Marquette University next year after being part of the Lancaster varsity team for the past 5 seasons.

Natali Ninova and Hannah Nagowski also added 3 goals each as well as 1 goal by Jenna Hagen in the victory.

Lancaster finished the season 17-2 overall and 10-0 in Division I.

-Julie Buccieri, Coach

The Chautauqua Lake Thunderbird Softball team took home the Section VI Class C title by defeating the Franklinville Panthers, 10-7. The road to the finals was not easy, but the Thunderbirds came up with clutch hitting when needed and played superb defense. The wins to get to the title game included a 9-3 win over Cattaraugus Little Valley, a 4-2 win over Barker, and a tight win against league opponent, Cassadaga Valley, 2-1. This is the very first Section VI title for the Lady Thunderbirds. The team took on a tough opponent in the Regionals, Addison, and fell by a score of 7-1.

The team finished 7-5 in the league and 13-7 overall. The Thunderbirds played in the tough CCAA Division 1 West this season, which turned out to be quite beneficial in the playoff run. On paper, the 7-5 record doesn’t look too impressive, but with the pitching and defense at this level, the Thunderbirds lost 3 of the 5 games by 2 runs or less. The Lady Thunderbirds were able to accomplish this with a strong battery and a tough middle infield. Both pitcher and catcher were returning letter winners and 8th graders. Olivia Anderson, Pitcher, finished the season with a 2.0 ERA and also had some key hits in the post-season. Chay Johnson was stellar behind the plate with only 3 passed balls all season. Ryleigh Hawkins, Short Stop, and Jade Walsh, Second Base, were the backbone of the Thunderbird defense. Ryleigh, a senior, captain, was outstanding defensively and offensively. Her batting average was .369, her OBP was .475 as the leadoff batter, and her slugging percentage was .667. Junior, Second Baseman Jade was a wall defensively and led the team in batting average with a .380. Jade’s OBP was .467 and her slugging percentage was .700. Leading the team in RBI's and extra base hits was Senior, Third Baseman Melanie McCutcheon. Mel had 21 RBI’s, 20 hits with 4 doubles, 5 triples, and 3 homeruns. Courtney Hewes, the team's other senior captain, led in stolen bases with 14 and she also scored 21 runs for the Thunderbirds. Seniors and Starters, Emilee Steger (Centerfielder) and Gina Sena (First Baseman), will be greatly missed next season.

The Thunderbird Softball team is looking forward to next season and will miss 5 seniors, but will be looking forward to our all-important Senior Starters, Abigail Andriaccio, Emily Corwin, and Jade Walsh to be the leaders of the team. Along with them will be Cameryn Hawkins, Sara Corwin, Olivia Anderson, and Chay Johnson.
“Anytime you see a turtle up on top of a fence post, you know he had some help”. This was something I had mentioned to our team near the end of our season. In order to reach our goals, it was going to take every effort from all ladies on our team and we were going to have to work together to get ourselves to the top. We were only going to be as successful as we decided to be and our success throughout the season was a result of our ladies taking every step and effort to be the best. We finished our season with a record of 16-3 overall, we won the division and the Class D championship and we were aiming to end on a win, but, unfortunately, fell short of that goal.

The season ended with a tough, 2-3, loss in the Far-West Regional game against Section V champions Andover. It was Pine Valley’s 3rd trip in a row to the Far-West Regionals, which is quite an accomplishment for our ladies and the program. I could not be more proud of the growth of each of the ladies, individually and as a team.

For me, this hurt more than any other prior loss as I truly felt that our ladies had what it took to go to the state finals and win. I know for many of the girls and I, it was a devastating moment, but these ladies had a phenomenal season and should be very proud of what they accomplished. Our team was comprised of an athletic and fantastic group of young ladies: Seniors- Alexandria Bentham, Kaitlyn Hoth and Brittany Howard; Juniors- Rebecca Butcher, Lindsey Crisanti, Karah Herman, Rikki Kilburn, Brandee Pulliam-Dahl, Jamie Wilcox, and Jessica Wilcox; and Freshman- Kaylee Crisanti. Throughout the year and at the end of the season, we pulled up Sophomores Sierra McLaughlin, Zoe Nelson, Machika Nishida, and Freshman Karson Smuda.

To the seniors: I am going to miss you three so very much. You all have grown into beautiful, young women and should be proud of all your accomplishments. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to have been your coach all these years and there will always be a special place in my heart for you all. Good luck next year and make us proud! To the returning players; remember our last game so that you can grow from it, and then we are in that same place next year so there will be no second guessing your abilities or talent. We have work to do and I look forward to getting the job done.

An enormous and very appreciative thank you to Mark Mansfield. We have been coaching together for the past six years, from JV to Varsity. We have such a great program and it is because of his hard work and dedication. He possesses great knowledge and experience of the game and I couldn’t imagine anyone else but him giving these ladies the opportunities to improve their game. A million thank yous!!!

As always, thank you to Tara Hayes, our scorekeeper who puts up with my craziness! You are so important to us and we could not do it without you! Thank you to our manager, Madisyn Herman, for doing a great job this season! Thank you to all the parents and community members for all of your support; we always try to do our best to make you proud!

-Danielle Arnone, Coach

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**Hey Student-Athletes,**

**Sports Officiating Opportunities Await You!**

After graduation, one way to stay involved in athletics is through sports officiating. Whether you are moving on to college or beginning a new venture in your life, please take the time to consider a job opportunity with one or more of our Section VI affiliated sports officiating organizations.

**Offers Flexible Schedules • Multiple Locations • Helps Develop Leadership Skills**

*Previous officiating experience is not necessary*

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NYSPHSAA Boys Golf Championships
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

[On day one of the championships], weather and experience played a huge factor for our players. It didn’t get out of the 40s, wind early and a period of rain. Learning to play tournaments on a course of this caliber, in these conditions, and under the kind of pressure a State Championship brings, requires a great deal of patience, determination and effort. I think all of our guys gained valuable experience today that will make them better players tomorrow and in the future.

-Nate Leary, Section VI Boys Golf Chairman

Section VI took to heart the words of its director @OPGolfCoach Nate Leary and rebounded from a disappointing first day at the NYSPHSAA golf championships at Cornell University. Buoyed by the southern tier duo of Nolan Ditcher (Randolph) and Cody Latimer (Chautauqua Lake/ Westfield), who posted scores of 71 and 74, respectively, the WNY contingent remained in 8th place overall, but did secure a 5th place, day-two finish. Ditcher qualified for his second trip to the Black course at Bethpage State Park, finishing in a tie for fourth at +7. His even-par score on Monday was tied for low round of the day. Latimer finished just shy of a spot on the Federation team at +9, but did All-State recognition for his T7 finish.

After assisting for two days with live scoring, Coach Leary spent a few minutes composing the following reminiscence on 48 hours of golf with Section VI’s finest:

From my standpoint as the Section 6 Coordinator, I felt the weekend went very smoothly. The players, coaches, and their families all had a positive experience. Although some of our players did not do as well as they would have liked, I felt that they conducted themselves admirably and will use this as a learning experience. Many of these players, including Nolan Ditcher, will return next year (at least we hope they will) and I’m looking forward to another great NYSPHSAA Boys State championship in 2016.

- Courtesy of Mo’Golf posted on BuffaloGolfer.com

Team Roster:
3. Cody Latimer, 12, Chautauqua Lake (CCAA II West) - 2015 Section VI Third Place
4. Bradley Belote, 12, Lancaster (ECIC) - 2015 Section VI 4th Place
5. Chris Yustin, 11, Williamsville East (ECIC)
6. Ian Wilson, 12, Hamburg (ECIC)
7. Mike Kessler, 11, Williamsville North (ECIC)
8. Mike Wells, 10, Williamsville North (ECIC)
9. Erich Spitz, 12, Orchard Park (ECIC)

- 2nd Trip to States for Bradley Belote (2012, 2015)
- 2nd Trip to States for Erich Spitz (2014, 2015)

Photo Courtesy of Joey Conti Photography
2015 Boys Golf State Awards

Erich Spitz, Senior
Orchard Park HS
Section VI Coaches Award Recipient

Nolan Ditcher, Junior
Randolph
T4 finish
2015 NYSPHSAA Federation Team
(Top 6 NYSPHSAA State Finishers)
2015 All-State Award

Cody Latimer, Senior
Chautauqua Lake
T7 finish
2015 All-State Award
NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Award
(Section VI Recipient)

“I’ve always made a total effort, even when the odds seemed entirely against me. I never quit trying; I never felt that I didn’t have a chance to win.”

-Arnold Palmer

Please visit us on Twitter @opgolfcoach
# 2015 Section VI Girls Golf State Qualifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>Chelsea Dantonio</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>39 - 35 = 74*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marissa DelMonaco</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Southwestern</td>
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<td>Fredonia</td>
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<td>Samantha Gaffney</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Madison Cooper</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>55 - 51 = 106</td>
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* Chelsea Dantonio wins playoff on 3rd extra hole.

**Alternate**

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<td>Kirsta Wheelock</td>
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<td>52 - 57 = 109</td>
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Girls Golf

Sarah Godfrey-Singleton
Depew

Junior Sarah Godfrey-Singleton fired rounds of 73 and 74 to post a three over par total 147 at the NYSPHSAA Girls Golf Championship held at the College Course at Delhi University June 13 and 14, 2015. Sarah finished the first round in 5th place after shooting a one over par 73, but was able to move ahead of two competitors with her round of 74 on Sunday’s second round to claim third place. This was Sarah’s fourth consecutive trip to the NYS Championship where she has finished 22nd, 16th, 8th, and now 3rd. Sarah will be a senior at Depew this coming year and plans on continuing the improvement in her state championship bid in 2016.

-Rick Wargala, Coach

Chelsea Dantonio
Lancaster

Make it four Section VI girls golf championships in five years for Chelsea Dantonio. The Lancaster junior shot a 5-over-par 77 Wednesday at Gowanda Country Club to earn a four-stroke victory and continue her stretch of dominance.

Even with the past success, Dantonio showed up just as focused, ready to defend her title and meet the high expectations that existed.

“Twas really nervous for today because I felt like I was expected to win,” she said, “but I know you can’t think of that. I just came out here and I tried to do my best. I was nervous in the beginning, but I relaxed myself and I was able to win it again.”

The win has Dantonio advancing to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association championship, where she finished fourth a year ago. Her fifth trip to states will be June 13-15 at SUNY Delhi.

On Wednesday, she shot a 1-over 37 on the first nine holes and followed that up with a 40 on the back nine.

Dantonio played consistently throughout, even on a day when she felt she wasn’t at her best. She parred 11 holes and bogeyed six.

“Today was a little rough,” said Dantonio, who won the championship last year with a round of 81. “It was an up-and-down type of day, but I managed to pull through. I was getting a little tired at the end, but I had to get myself out of it. ... I didn’t think I was hitting my clubs that solid, so all throughout the round I was trying to fix things. It was coming together a little bit at the end, so that was good.”

Her only birdie was on the par-4 17th hole. She tapped in and gave a slight pump of her right fist, knowing a third straight sectional title was hers.

“That definitely helped,” Dantonio said with a smile. “I was waiting for a birdie putt all day. It was getting frustrating, but I didn’t get worse than a bogey so that was good.”

The top nine in the 26-player field qualified for the state championship. Also moving on are Depew's Sarah Godfrey (81), Clarence's Alexis Kim (85), Southwestern's Leigh Yartz (87) and Marissa DelMonaco (94), Lancaster's Nicole Filipski (88), Jamestown's Kirstie Hanson (102) and Williamsville North's Jenna Stogsdill and Samantha Stanford (both 102). Godfrey, Kim, Filipski, DelMonaco, Stogsdill and Hanson are all repeat qualifiers.

Godfrey, a sophomore, overcame a slow start to finish as the runner-up after placing third the last two years.

She had a triple-bogey on the par-5, 407-yard hole No. 2 but recovered with strong drives and clutch putting.

Godfrey, playing in a group with Dantonio and DelMonaco for the second year in a row, birdied Nos. 4 and 11.

“I struggled with some shots,” she said. “My drives were good but it was a little hard with the sogginess. I thought I’d get higher than an 81, so I did better than I thought.”

-Courtesy of The Buffalo News

“Success in golf depends less on strength of body than upon strength of mind and character.”

-Arnold Palmer
Track and Field
Noteworthy Placements - Division 1

Colin Blair, Discus
2nd Place NYSPHSAA
2nd Place Federation
Lancaster

- Junior
- ECIC and Section VI Champion - Shotput
  - Season best - 59’7”
  - NYS Championships - 6th place 53’10 ½”
- Sectional Champion - Discus
  - Season best - 187’5”
  - NYS Championships - 2nd place 178’2”

McKyla Brooks, Long Jump
2nd Place NYSPHSAA
1st Place Federation
Frontier

Jeffery Menyah, Grade 11
Anthony Hawthorne, Grade 12
Niagara Falls

- Junior
- Section VI Champion - 1600 M Run
  - Season best - 4:13.31
  - NYS Championships - 4th Place, 4:13.31*
- School record; also fastest 1600M ever in WNY for a junior (TJ Hornberger (Lake Shore), 2014, holds the WNY record)

Olivia Gervan, High Jump
2nd Place NYSPHSAA
3rd Place Federation
Lancaster

- Sophomore
- 2nd time participating in the Outdoor Track & Field State Championships
  (5th place as a freshman - 5’ 5”)
- Equalized or bettered the NYS standard (5’3”) five times this season
- NYS Championships - 2nd place, 5’6”

- Section VI champion - 110 Hurdles and 400 Hurdles
- 5th place - 110 Hurdles, NYSPHSAA meet
- 9th place - 110 Hurdles, NY Federation race

Anthony Hawthorne
- Section VI Champion in the 800 Meters
- Section VI Boys Track Sportsmanship winner
- 5th place - 800, at the NYSPHSAA championships
- 7th place - 800, in the Federation at the state track meet
- Attending Edinboro College, Fall 2015

-Jonathan Robins, Coach

Steve Neumaier, 1600 Meter Run
4th Place NYSPHSAA
Lancaster

- Junior
- Section VI Champion - 1600M Run
  - Season best - 4:13.31
  - NYS Championships - 4th Place, 4:13.31*

-Jonathan Robins, Coach
Track and Field

Noteworthy Placements - Division 1

Rebecca Stiefler
Shot Put - 4th Place NYSPHSAA, 2nd Place Federation
Discus - 2nd Place NYSPHSAA, 2nd Place Federation

Frontier

Tiana Luton, Pentathlon
2nd Place NYSPHSAA
2nd Place Federation
Sweet Home

Tiana placed 2nd in both the NYSPHSAA and Federation Pentathlon Championship. In winning the section title, she scored 3479 points to place her 6th all-time in NYS history. Tiana now has won section titles in addition to the indoor 55 hurdle title this past February.

Sadira Brown, Triple Jump
2nd Place NYSPHSAA
2nd Place Federation
Sweet Home

Sadira placed 2nd in both the NYSPHSAA and Federation Triple Jump Championship. She lost the NYSPHSAA title by a half inch and then was passed on the 4th and final jump in the Federation final. She won both the indoor and outdoor section title in the Triple Jump and, indoors, won the NYSPHSAA title in the Triple Jump.

4x800 Meter Relay Team
3rd Place NYSPHSAA
3rd Place Federation
Sweet Home

The 4x800 team consisting of Junior Will Schultz, Sophomore Chris Nowak, Senior Josh Hammer, and Senior Mitchell Daddario placed 3rd in the Federation and NYSPHSAA championships in the 4x800. The quartet set the Section VI record running 7:47.44-eclipsing the mark of 7:51.04 set by Sweet Home in 1986. The 4x800 team from Sweet Home won both the outdoor Section VI title, along with the indoor title, where they also placed 3rd at the state meet, and set the Section VI record during the indoor season as well.

Taylor Thurnherr, Pole Vault
3rd Place NYSPHSAA
3rd Place Federation
Hamburg

Taylor Thurnherr of Hamburg took 3rd place in the NYSPHSAA/Federation Pole Vault competition with a jump of 12’, which broke her own school record. Taylor also took 5th place at the NYSPHSAA/Federation indoor meet. She graduated #8 in her class of 273.

-Lowell Malican, Coach

Lavette Warren, 100 Meter Dash
2nd Place NYSPHSAA
Sweet Home

Lavette Warren is a junior, three sport athlete (Football, Basketball) at Lockport High School.

This year was his first time participating in the sport of Track and Field.

In his first year, Lavette was very successful. He won many invitational meets in the 100 Meters. He was crowned both Niagara Frontier League (NFL) and Section VI champion. He ran the second fastest time in school history. His greatest accomplishment was coming in second place at the NYSPHSAA track meet.

He was also a member of the NFL and Section VI champion 4 X 100 relay team.
Jack Behlmaier has had a truly impressive track career over the past 4 years. He has been a state representative for the past 3 years as a member of the 4x800 relay. He began the season with some high expectations and he stepped up to the challenge. Jack was a 1st Team Division II All-Star in the 400 Hurdles and played a vital role in our teams success this season. Jack started his phenomenal post season at the ECIC's by taking 2nd place in 4 events (400m Dash, 110 Hurdles, 400 Hurdles, and the 4x400 relay). At sectionals, Jack focused on the 400 Intermediate Hurdles and the 4x400 Relay. Jack broke the school record in the 400 Hurdles as well as finishing 2nd in the race. His time of :55.98 qualified him for states as he met the State Double Standard. Jack then anchored the 4x400 Relay that broke the school record and placed 2nd also qualifying for states making the Double Standard as well. At the state meet, Jack finished 4th in the 400 Hurdles for Division II. The 4x400 Relay finished in 4th place for Division II. Jack finished his senior season by competing at the New Balance Division II. The 4x400 Relay finished in 4th place for Division II.

Jack Behlmaier has had a truly impressive track career over the past 4 years. He has been a state representative for the past 3 years as a member of the 4x800 relay. He began the season with some high expectations and he stepped up to the challenge. Jack was a 1st Team Division II All-Star in the 400 Hurdles and played a vital role in our teams success this season. Jack started his phenomenal post season at the ECIC's by taking 2nd place in 4 events (400m Dash, 110 Hurdles, 400 Hurdles, and the 4x400 relay). At sectionals, Jack focused on the 400 Intermediate Hurdles and the 4x400 Relay. Jack broke the school record in the 400 Hurdles as well as finishing 2nd in the race. His time of :55.98 qualified him for states as he met the State Double Standard. Jack then anchored the 4x400 Relay that broke the school record and placed 2nd also qualifying for states making the Double Standard as well. At the state meet, Jack finished 4th in the 400 Hurdles for Division II. The 4x400 Relay finished in 4th place for Division II. Jack finished his senior season by competing at the New Balance National Championships as a member of three relays that qualified for the meet (4x200, 800 Sprint Medley Relay, 1600 Sprint Medley Relay). In the 1600 Medley Relay, he placed 7th overall at the meet.

-Rich Bridenbaker, Coach

Joshua Fischer is a senior who has been a varsity letter winner in track the past four seasons at Falconer. He went undefeated for the season until states. He won the Olean Invitational, Falconer Invitational, Jamestown Invitational, Super 8 meet, CCAA County meet and sectional title. Josh was also a member of the 4x100 Relay team and 4x400 Relay team. He also placed second at sectionals in the Division II 200 Meter Run. Josh holds the school record in the 110 High Hurdles and 200 Meter. His fastest time of the year in the 110 High Hurdles was 14.60 FAT. He placed 4th at the state meet with a time of 14.96 FAT.

-Joshua Fischer, 110 Meter High Hurdles 4th Place NYSPHSAA Falconer

The East Aurora (EA) Varsity Boys and Girls Track and Field teams, coming off of ECIC and unofficial Section VI team Division II wins, turned in some of their best performances of the season to earn spots on the podium at the New York State Track and Field Championships held at SUNY Albany.

Leading the way for EA was the Boys 4x400 Relay Team of: Jack Zagrobelny, Mike Coatsworth, Mike Durant, and Matt McLaughlin who not only set a new school record of 3:22.49, they captured the NY State Division II Championship by more than a two second margin of victory. Both the Boys and Girls 4x800 Relay Teams hit season best times on their way to runner-up finishes with Kenny Vasbinder, Will Zink, Pat Murray, and Matt McLaughlin representing the boys team while Molly McLaughlin, Fiona Danieu, Maisy Webster, and Sophia Tasselmyer representing the girls squad. The boys team won their heat with a 7:58.88, but had to watch Pleasantville from Section I take the title out of the second heat. The EA girls’ team had the early lead, but was over taken by Bronxville from Section I in the final leg. Their time of 9:17.68 also earned a Federation medal by placing 8th overall.

Also placing in the top six and earning trips to the awards podium were: Kenny Vasbinder, 2nd in the 3200 Meter Run with a time of 9:29.36; Molly McLaughlin, 3rd in the 800 Meter Run with 2:13.68, which also placed her 7th in the Federation; Jack Zagrobelny, 3rd in the 400 Hurdles in 56.12; TJ Murray, 4th in the 3000 Meter Steeplechase with a time of 9:44.37; Mike Coatsworth, 5th in the 400 with a school record time of 49.76; Sophia Tasselmyer, 5th in the 3000 Meter Run with a 10:18.07, and Morgan Palmer 6th in the Discus with a throw of 107”-09”.

Several members of the East Aurora Track teams also qualified for and participated in the New Balance Track and Field Nationals that were held in Greensboro, North Carolina. The EA squad had a great weekend, braking five school records and several Section VI records in the heat of NC. Record breaking performances were turned in by: Molly McLaughlin, Fiona Danieu, Maisy Webster, and Sophia Tasselmyer in the 4x800 (9:10.56) and 4x1600 (20:59.91); Jack Zagrobelny, Mike Coatsworth, Mike Durant, and Matt McLaughlin in the 4x400 (3:20.39) and Sprint Medley Relay (400,200,200,800) (3:34.10); and Sophia Tasselmyer in the 5000 Meter Run with her 8th place finish time of 17:16.01.

-Walt McLaughlin, Coach

-Molly McLaughlin, 800 Meter Run 3rd Place NYSPHSAA, 7th Place Federation

-Jack Zagrobelny, 400 Meter Intermediate Hurdles 3rd Place NYSPHSAA

-TJ Murray, 3000 Meter Steeplechase 4th Place NYSPHSAA

-Noteworthy Placements - Division 2

4th Place NYSPHSAA

4th Place NYSPHSAA

4th Place NYSPHSAA

4th Place NYSPHSAA

-Kenny Vasbinder, 3200 Meter Run 2nd Place NYSPHSAA

-Falconer Invitational, Super 8 meet, CCAA County meet and sectional title.

-East Aurora 4x800 Meter Girls Relay Team 2nd Place NYSPHSAA

-East Aurora 4x400 Meter Boys Relay Team 1st Place NYSPHSAA

-East Aurora 4x800 Meter Boys Relay Team 2nd Place NYSPHSAA

-East Aurora 4x800 Meter Girls Relay Team 2nd Place NYSPHSAA

-East Aurora 4x400 Meter Boys Relay Team 1st Place NYSPHSAA

-East Aurora 4x400 Meter Boys Relay Team 1st Place NYSPHSAA

-East Aurora 4x400 Meter Boys Relay Team 1st Place NYSPHSAA

-Molly McLaughlin, 800 Meter Run 3rd Place NYSPHSAA, 7th Place Federation

-Jack Zagrobelny, 400 Meter Intermediate Hurdles 3rd Place NYSPHSAA

-TJ Murray, 3000 Meter Steeplechase 4th Place NYSPHSAA
Shawn Foster, Long Jump
4th Place NYSPHSAA
Cheektowaga

Shawn Foster had another great season as she was on her way to breaking 3 individual records in the Long Jump, Triple Jump, and the 100 Hurdles. Shawn was a Division All-Star in Long Jump and Triple Jump. As the post season got started, Shawn had a good showing at the ECIC’s as she took 3rd in the 100 Hurdles, Long Jump, and Triple Jump. Shawn then had an unbelievable day as she opened up the meet with an 18’1.75” in the Long Jump to become the Section VI Champion for Division II. She was not done there, Shawn followed up her record setting performance by jumping 3 7’1.75” becoming the Section VI Champion in the Triple Jump. Shawn also continued to drop time in her 100 Hurdles placing 3rd in that event with a time of :15.25. At states, Shawn took 5th place in the Triple Jump and 5th in the Long Jump. Her jumps from sectionals qualified her for the New Balance Nationals Track and Field Meet. At Nationals, Shawn made it to finals in the Long Jump and placed 8th overall.

-Zrich Bridenbaker, Coach

Zach Jones, Pentathlon
Megan Caltagirone,
2000 Meter Steeplechase
Holland

Mckenna Maycock
400 Meter Intermediate Hurdles -
2nd Place NYSPHSAA
100 Meter High Hurdles -
4th Place NYSPHSAA
Randolph

Record breaking season:
This season, McKenna obtained the following record breaking times, of which, she was also the previous record holder:

- 100h- 15.17 FAT
- 400h- 1:02.30 FAT
- 200m- 25.97 FAT
- 4x4- 4:07.95 FAT

Team: Makenzie Evans, Alexis Hinman, Halle Lienhart, and Mckenna Maycock

***Mckenna Maycock currently holds 10 of 19 records

Other Awards this Season:

- Super 8 Most Valuable Female
- Falconer Outstanding Overall Girls Athlete
- Olean Most Outstanding Track Girls
- Section XI Sportsmanship

The girls’ track season was very successful as they tied Portville and Allegany-Limestone for the Division II championship title. At the Falconer and Olean invitational, the girls placed second. At the Falconer Invite, Mckenna Maycock set two records in 100 Meter Hurdles and 400 Meters. At Olean, she claimed the meet record in the 400 meters as well. On top of setting these records, she broke two of her own previous school records in the 100 meter hurdles and 200 meters. The five seniors of the team, Aliah Sample, Mckenna Maycock, Makenzie Evans, Megan Steward, and Taryn Dechow, will be greatly missed next year. These girls set several records and served as strong role models during their track careers.

-Brooke Adams
Noteworthy Placements - Division 2

Justyn Milks, Shot Put
2nd Place NYSPHSAA
Pioneer

• Placed first with teammate at Franklinville relays
• Placed first at Pioneer Invite
• Champion, Falconer Invite
• 1st place - Super 8 meet in Salamanca
• 3rd place - ECIC Meet, Division 2
• 2nd place - Section VI Meet, Division 2
• 2nd place - NYSPHSAA Meet, Division 2
• PR for the season 38’ 7.75
• Outstanding Senior Athlete, Pioneer
• Competed in Field Hockey, Indoor Track, and Outdoor Track

Jessica Wiede, Shot Put
3rd Place NYSPHSAA
Springville

Jessica Wiede, from Springville-Griffith, represented Section VI at the New York State Track and Field Championship Meet in Albany. Jessica, a senior, was the small school Section VI champion in the Shot Put and is her school record holder with a career best throw of 39'0. Jessica will be attending Binghamton University in the fall. Jessica’s throwing coach was Mark Heichberger, who is the head coach of the Springville Girls Track and Field team.

Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become YOUR WORDS.

Keep your words positive because your words become YOUR BEHAVIOR.

Keep your behavior positive because your behavior becomes YOUR HABITS.

Keep your habits positive because your habits become YOUR VALUES.

Keep your values positive because your values become YOUR DESTINY.

-Mahatma Ghandi
Team Captain Leadership Seminar
Erie County Community College
May 22nd, 2015

To develop the leaders for tomorrow, the Buffalo Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) partnered with Section VI, NYSPHSAA, the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB), and Erie Community College (ECC), to deliver the inaugural Captains Leadership Seminar (CLS). The purpose of the program is to establish a foundation for the leadership development of current high school student-athletes for their use today and in future collegiate and vocational endeavors. The CLS took place on Friday, May 22, 2015, from 10:00am to 1:00pm, at the Erie County Community College South Campus. Each high school was asked to select one male and female scholar-athlete, who currently demonstrates leadership qualities at school and in their community, to attend the CLS.

The CLS presented attendees with four dynamic speakers—each of whom focused on one of the following areas during their presentation:

- **Courage**: To act with clear purpose and conviction
- **Character**: To take personal responsibility and provide service to others
- **Competence**: To achieve results to advance the mission
- **Collaboration**: To engage others and enlist their best efforts in a common purpose

Guest speaker - Olympic Champion Bruce Baumgardner

Section VI President Brett Banker and Buffalo Sabres Captain Brian Gionta
Section VI selected the winners of the All-WNY Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2015 spring sports season. Of the 680 nominations; there are 17 three season winners, 53 two season winners, 123 winners, and 487 honorable mentions. All winners are listed below. * Indicates two-season winner ** Indicates three-season winner

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<td>Boys Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Evan Helenbrook**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Joseph Preziuso*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Erin Sciotrino*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys Lacrosse</td>
<td>Preston Hamill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lew-Port</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Devan Maglio*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Girls Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Brenna Donovan</td>
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<td>Lockport</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Delaney Fragale</td>
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<td>Maple Grove</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boys Golf</td>
<td>Benjamin Richard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boys Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>John (Ben) Soffel</td>
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<td>Medina</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boys Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Austin Brown*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Jason Hellwig*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boys Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Ryan Leffler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Girls Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Alex Markle</td>
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<td>Newfane</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Trevor Noon*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Brenna Savigny</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Christine Schultz</td>
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Meet the Athletic Director

A new segment to the Section VI newsletter that profiles an athletic director from each league.

Section VI All-WNY Scholar Athletes
Spring 2015

Niagara Falls
Baseball
Taylor Huntsman

Niagara Wheatfield
Girls Track & Field
Angela Coulter**

Boys Track & Field
Justin Adams

Boys Track & Field
Dominic DiFiglia

Boys Track & Field
Denver Strong

North Tonawanda
Boys Track & Field
William Alvaro*

Boys Track & Field
Adam McNeill*

Girls Track & Field
Danielle DalPorto

Girls Track & Field
Richelle Kloch

Girls Track & Field
Megan Weaver

Girls Track & Field
Samuel Weglarski

Olean
Boys Tennis
Geoffrey Broadbent**

Softball
Monica Moses**

Softball
Alexis Sova

Girls Track & Field
Rami Major**

Girls Track & Field
William Myers**

Girls Track & Field
Cayley Brege

Girls Track & Field
Jacob Dogal

Girls Track & Field
Madison Hunter

Girls Track & Field
Patrick Hylkema

Girls Track & Field
Kaylee Jentsch

Girls Track & Field
Rachel Johnson

Girls Track & Field
Alexander Korach

Girls Track & Field
Andrew Sipowicz

Randolph
Softball
Tyler Henderson

Boys Track & Field
Wesley Sluga

Girls Track & Field
Megan Steward

Southwestern
Girls Golf
Heather Hoden

Boys Tennis
Rahim Karimi

Boys Tennis
Quinn White

Boys Track & Field
Brady Williams

Springville
Boys Tennis
Matthew Wagner

Starpoint
Boys Track & Field
Ian Emerick*

Girls Track & Field
Kara Wilcox*

Boys Tennis
Anthony Zanatian*

Boys Track & Field
Ryan Furey

Boys Golf
Evan Lemma

Sweet Home
Boys Track & Field
Joseph Gerlach**

Boys Track & Field
Mitchell Daddario*

Boys Track & Field
Melanie Izard*

Boys Track & Field
Quinn Sorrentino*

Boys Track & Field
Kevin Terragnoli*

Boys Track & Field
Joseph Lovering

Boys Track & Field
Joshua Willson

West Seneca East
Girls Lacrosse
Kelsey Beres*

Girls Track & Field
Leanne Glaub*

Boys Lacrosse
Tyler Skretny*

Boys Lacrosse
Erin Barrett

Girls Lacrosse
James Brnik

Boys Tennis
Ethan Rayer

West Seneca West
Boys Track & Field
Joshua Nowak**

Boys Track & Field
John Gorman*

Girls Track & Field
Ryan Kijjanski*

Boys Lacrosse
Dennis Ulmer*

Boys Lacrosse
Adam Tobias

Williamsburg East
Boys Track & Field
Patrick Irving*

Baseball
Joshua Taubman*

Girls Lacrosse
Melinda Tiao*

Boys Golf
Ryan Coombs

Girls Lacrosse
Kara Marzo

Girls Track & Field
Brenda Sheedy

Boys Track & Field
Takayuki Suzuki

Boys Lacrosse
Nicholas Vermiliye

Williamsburg North
Boys Track & Field
Patrick Crowley**

Girls Track & Field
Jennifer Feritta*

Girls Track & Field
Linnea Laux*

Boys Track & Field
Austin Oettinger*

Boys Track & Field
Harley Carrol

Boys Lacrosse
Mohammad Durrani

Girls Track & Field
Victoria Lazarov

Softball
Jessica Mucci

Boys Tennis
Sibtain Mustafa

Girls Lacrosse
Anne Principe

Williamsburg South
Boys Lacrosse
Andrew Laudio*

Boys Track & Field
Austin Gallagher

Baseball
Jacob Huber

Boys Lacrosse
Matthew Laudio

Softball
Rachel Whalen

Wilson
Boys Track & Field
Matthew Dispenza
Meet the Athletic Director

Chris Payne, Panama Central School

Chautauqua Cattaraugus Athletic Association

Years of Administrative Service: 20 years
Education:
Bachelor of Science
SUNY Brockport
Master's Degree
St. Bonaventure University
*Inducted into the Brockport Hall of Fame in 2007 for football
Family:
Shelly, Wife; Bryce, Son - Attending the University of Mount Union;
Jack, Son - High School Senior;
Quinn, Daughter - High School Sophomore
Favorite Food: Chicken wings
Favorite Movie: Gladiator
Hobbies: Fishing, Boating, Coaching
Why/How did you choose athletics/education?
I attended both Depew Middle School and High School. One of my teachers, Dan McGrath, was also one of my football coaches. I looked up to him and he made class fun, but competitive. I always loved sports and wanted to work with kids.

Jim Graczyk, Pioneer Central Schools

Erie County Interscholastic Conference

Years of Administrative Service: 19 years
Education:
BS from SUNY at Buffalo
MS from SUC at Buffalo
SDA from SUC at Buffalo
Family:
I am lucky to have a loving and wonderful immediate & extended family!! Very blessed!
Favorite Food: Not much I don’t like... Pizza is near the top of the list!
Favorite Movie: The Hunt for Red October
Hobbies: Staying busy and helping other people
Why/How did you choose athletics/education?
I knew in high school that I wanted to be a teacher and have thoroughly enjoyed athletics from competing, training, building relationships, coaching, and just being a spectator. It has been very fulfilling. I am a strong advocate for being involved in some way, somehow in the athletic program. I have had many useful lifelong experiences that would not be gained without athletics. I feel very lucky to be able to have the career I have.

Tim Mondello, Global Concepts Charter School

Independent League

Years of Administrative Service: 6 years
Education:
Bachelor of Science
Physical Education/Health
Canisius College
Master of Science
Adapted Physical Education
Canisius College
Master of Science
Educational Leadership and Supervision
Canisius College
Family: Katie (Wife)
Favorite Food: Lobster
Favorite Movie: Miracle
Hobbies: Playing hockey and golf, traveling with my family, coaching my children’s athletic teams
Why/How did you choose athletics/education?
I have always had a great interest in athletics as a player, spectator, and coach. One of the draws of becoming a teacher was to have an opportunity to be a coach. I had that opportunity at Lew-Port, having coached hockey, boys volleyball, tennis, and golf. I had the opportunity to work for a number of great administrators that encouraged me to pursue certification, which I did, and was given a great opportunity to be the Athletic Director at Lew-Port. I believe that athletics is the best job in school administration. It affords us an opportunity to work in an area where we can get to know students in a unique setting that they enjoy being a part of. There is no better feeling than seeing your athletes and students succeed in what they love to do.

Scott Townsend, Lewiston-Porter

Niagara Frontier League

Years of Administrative Service: 10 years
Education:
Bachelor of Arts
St. Bonaventure University
Master's in Education
St. Bonaventure University
School Administrative Certification
Niagara University
Family:
Wife - Amy; Children - Dominic (11), Brynn (9), James (7)
Favorite Food: Lasagna
Favorite Movie: Miracle
Hobbies: Playing hockey and golf, traveling with my family, coaching my children's athletic teams
Why/How did you choose athletics/education?
I have always had a great interest in athletics as a player, spectator, and coach. One of the draws of becoming a teacher was to have an opportunity to be a coach. I had that opportunity at Lew-Port, having coached hockey, boys volleyball, tennis, and golf. I had the opportunity to work for a number of great administrators that encouraged me to pursue certification, which I did, and was given a great opportunity to be the Athletic Director at Lew-Port. I believe that athletics is the best job in school administration. It affords us an opportunity to work in an area where we can get to know students in a unique setting that they enjoy being a part of. There is no better feeling than seeing your athletes and students succeed in what they love to do.
Spring 2015
Additional Champions

State Champions
Bennett
Alex Dildy, 100 Meter Dash

Regional Champions
Westfield Baseball
Class D

Sectional Champions
Hamburg
Girls Lacrosse, Class B

Noteworthy Placements
Allegany Limestone
Owen Barber
800 Meter Run - 2nd Place NYSPHSAA
1600 Meter Run - 4th Place NYSPHSAA

Allegany Limestone
Roman Greco
Shot Put - 2nd Place NYSPHSAA

Depew
Nick Serafin
Long Jump - 4th Place NYSPHSAA High Jump - 3rd Place NYSPHSAA

Chautauqua Lake
Trent Howard
Pole Vault - 4th Place NYSPHSAA

Section VI
Executive Committee

President
Brett Banker, Ken-Ton

President-Elect
Al Gens, Dunkirk

Superintendents Rep*
Dr. Mike Wendt, Wilson/Newfane

Principals Rep*
Jim Spanbauer, Niagara Falls

Girls Sports Rep*
Marisa Fallacaro, Eden

Boys Sports Rep*
Jim Graczyk, Pioneer

Past President
Dr. Jeff Rabey, Depew

Executive Director
Timm Slade

Treasurer
Don Scholla

*Central Committee Representatives to the State Association

Section VI
Office Staff

Administrative Assistant
Pauline Turski

Administrative Assistant
Beth Fadeley