



## PRESS RELEASE

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Contacts: Erin Felber, West High School Athletic Director  
262-335-5608 or [efelber@wbsd-schools.org](mailto:efelber@wbsd-schools.org)

Nancy Kunkler, Communications Manager  
262-335-5459 or [nkunkler@wbsd-schools.org](mailto:nkunkler@wbsd-schools.org)

### **Eleven Will Join West Bend East and West Athletic Hall of Fame**

West Bend – Eleven people will be inducted into the West Bend High Schools Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, October 6. The ceremony will take place on the football field at 6:40 p.m. just before the start of the Homecoming football game between East and West High Schools.

The group includes community members who have contributed much to East and West athletics, four sisters who were champion volleyball players on the high school and college level, men who shined for East football, West football, and West baseball, and two longtime successful coaches. The 11 new members include:

Alan Pick - West Bend High School Class of 1939 and Distinguished Contributor

B.J. Royes - Distinguished Contributor

Dave Uelmen - West Bend East High School Class of 1990

Steve Tennies - West Bend West High School Class of 2001

Paul Hoenecke - West Bend West High School Class of 2008

Jackie Vorpahl - West Bend West High School Coach

Mike Vorpahl - West Bend West High School Coach

Jamie Gardner Kohnen - West Bend East High School Class of 1997

Laurie Gardner Gabler - West Bend East High School Class of 1998

Korie Gardner Schofield - West Bend East High School Class of 2000

Christie Gardner Rohlinger - West Bend East High School Class of 2002

Details of their accomplishments and contributions include:

**Alan Pick**

**West Bend High School Class of 1939 and Distinguished Contributor** (Prudence Pick Hwy, daughter of Alan Pick, accepting the honor for her late father)

A letter from his father Carl Pick while he was in high school encouraged Alan Pick to "work hard, get tough, stay in there, and keep your head down" to earn a place on a Big Ten Conference football team. Carl tells Alan in the letter that if he could play football for a Big Ten Conference school, he would be the first boy from Washington County to do so in nearly 50 years.

Alan not only earned his place on the Northwestern University Wildcats football team, he also kicked the game-winning 22-yard field goal to beat the reigning national champions University of Texas Longhorns in 1942. The accomplishment became known as "The Kick," and was featured in newspapers across the country.

Alan was an accomplished high school and college athlete. After his collegiate football career and upon graduation from Northwestern University in 1943, he was offered a contract to play professional football for the New York Giants. However, Alan served his country during World War II and joined the U.S. Navy where he earned a Purple Heart.

After the war, Alan returned to West Bend where he was respected as a successful and civic-minded businessman. He and his wife generously donated the lights for the football field at West Bend East and West High Schools, which is named for his father, Carl. In addition, his daughter, Prudence Pick Hwy, supports the West Bend schools in many ways, even establishing the Nancy and Alan Pick Award for the most outstanding graduating female athlete at East and West High Schools and the Prudence Pick Hwy Coach of the Year Award.

**B.J. Royes**

**West Bend West Coach and Distinguished Contributor**

While we are used to hearing B.J. Royes's voice over the sound system here at football games and other athletic events, his contributions to West Bend East and West also include his volleyball expertise.

Royes was the West volleyball coach from 2004 to 2006. During that time, the team was WIAA State Tournament runner up in 2004 and third at the state tournament in 2006. He also coached for the West Bend Power Volleyball Club for 18 years and was named USA Volleyball National Junior Coach of the Year in 2009.

For many years, B.J. has been the game announcer for East and West volleyball, basketball, baseball, and football. In this role, he is one of the best in the business. His preparation, enthusiasm, and engagement with attendees and music selection enhances the game environment and experience for all attendees.

B.J. takes pride in his important role and strives to do the job to the highest level. His charismatic presence behind the microphone has the remarkable ability to unite and inspire

fans, athletes, and the community. We are so thankful for his relentless commitment to coaching, mentorship, and community engagement, which has left an enduring impact on West Bend athletics.

**Dave Uelmen**

**West Bend East Class of 1990**

A three year starter for the West Bend East Suns football team, Dave Uelmen led teams that twice made playoffs, enjoyed an undefeated conference season, and earned the highest state ranking in school history. Long-time East football coach Jerry Meulemans once called Dave "the best linebacker I ever coached."

Dave was named first team all conference in the Wisconsin Little 10 and Honorable Mention All-State by the *Milwaukee Journal*. He was also selected to play in the 1990 Wisconsin Shrine Bowl All Star game. Uelmen also wrestled for the Suns. During his senior season he was 30-7, and was named honorable mention all-conference twice.

After graduation, Dave continued his football journey at Carroll College where he was named First Team All Conference twice, team captain twice, and finished his career as the school's all-time leading tackler.

Dave has been a teacher and administrator in the West Bend School District for many years and from 1994 to 2011 he coached a variety of sports including football, wrestling, and track.

**Steve Tennies**

**West Bend West Class of 2001**

Steve Tennies excelled as quarterback for the West Bend West Spartans for three years and earned the 2001 Andy Pick Memorial Award.

In football, Steve was a four-year letter winner, three-year starter as quarterback, and selected as the team's offensive player of the year, team captain, and team MVP for 2000. He was also second team all-conference and all county in 2000.

Steve also competed in basketball and baseball for the Spartans. He was a two-year letter winner in both sports and basketball team captain in 2000–2001 and baseball team captain in 2001.

He attended the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse where he was a member of WIAC Championship football teams from 2002-2004. He was a 2004 All-WIAC First Team selection, and in 2005 won the WIAC Max Sparger Scholar-Athlete Award. He also finished second in school history in career completions (347), passing yards (5,037), passing touchdowns (43), total offense (5,178 yards), and set the single-season school record for total offense in 2003 with 2,679 yards.

**Paul Hoenecke****West Bend West Class of 2008**

Paul Hoenecke led the West Bend West Spartans to a baseball state championship in 2007 and went on to be drafted into Major League Baseball. Paul competed in baseball, basketball, and golf during his years at West.

In baseball, he was the Wisconsin State Player of the Year in 2008 and first team all state in 2007 and 2008. In addition, he was the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* player of the year in both 2007 and 2008, leading the Spartans to a WIAA State Championship in 2007. For the 2007 season, he held four baseball records: highest batting average (.515); most RBIs (59); most hits (67); and most doubles (19).

At the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Paul was a four-year starter and Academic All-American. Paul was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in 2008, played for UW-Milwaukee, and then was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2012. He had a six-year minor league career with the Dodgers, where he was a Double A all-star catcher twice and the Rookie League Batting Champion.

**Jackie Vorpahl****West Bend West Coach**

Jackie and Mike Vorpahl provided a tremendous amount of coaching to the students and schools of the West Bend School District.

Jackie Vorpahl's 30 years of coaching for West Bend West covered several sports and countless student-athletes.

She was the gymnastics coach from 1984 to 1997 and again from 2001 to 2018. During her gymnastic coaching tenure, the team was Wisconsin Little Ten Conference champions 14 times, WIAA Sectionals four times, and were WIAA State Championships team qualifiers six times.

She coached talented gymnasts to three Gymnast of the Year awards, 10 still-unbroken school records, 11 individual sectional champions, and had 22 gymnasts qualify for the state championships in 54 individual events.

In addition to coaching at Badger Middle School for approximately 10 years and track and field, Jackie was the head diving coach at West from 2002 to 2018. During this time, the team won 10 conference championships and two sectional championships. Her divers qualified for the WIAA State Championships 10 times.

**Mike Vorpahl****West Bend West Coach**

Mike Vorpahl coached for 36 years total, from 1982 to 2018. This included 13 years as West boys head track and field coach. During that time, the teams won three conference

championships, three WIAA Regionals championships, and took third place at the WIAA State Championships in 2014. Mike was named the District 6 Coach of the Year in 2014 by the Wisconsin Track Coaches Association.

Also during Mike's track and field coaching career, there were 85 individual conference champions (33 indoor, 26 relays, and 26 outdoor), 98 individual state qualifiers in 66 events and of those there were 16 medal winners and 1 champion, and 29 school records were set.

Mike's coaching contributions also included being an assistant gymnastics coach for Jackie from 2001 to 2018, an assistant wrestling coach from 1989 to 2001, and an assistant football coach from 2016 to 2018.

### **The Gardner Sisters**

#### **Jamie Gardner Kohnen**

#### **West Bend East Class of 1997**

The oldest of the four talented Gardner sisters, Jamie laid the foundation for noteworthy athletic achievement by the family. During her four years of volleyball, the West Bend East team finished second in state twice and won the WIAA State Championship in 1993 and 1995.

During her senior year of volleyball, Jamie was first-team all conference, all county, and all state. She was also the All Washington County Player of the Year. Jamie also competed in soccer during all four years of her high school career, earning all conference and all county accolades as well as team MVP in her senior year, and competed in basketball for two years.

Jamie attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was a four-year letterwinner in volleyball as a defensive specialist. During her tenure, Jamie was named Academic All Big Ten Conference in 1999 and 2000, the team was Big Ten Conference Champions three times, and runner up at the NCAA Championships in 2000.

#### **Laurie Gardner Gabler**

#### **West Bend East Class of 1998**

Laurie Gardner helped lead West Bend East volleyball with her sisters for four years. During her tenure, the team was WIAA State Champions in 1995 and 1997 and runner up the other two seasons. Laurie was first team all conference, all county, and all state.

She also made contributions to the East basketball team. Laurie led the team in assists, steals, and three-point shots. In fact, she held the record for most three-point attempts made for many years. She also received all county honors. Laurie also lettered in soccer as a sophomore and was also an all-conference selection during her high school career.

Laurie attended Indiana University to play volleyball from 1998-2001. She earned All Big Ten honors as a freshman and was captain of her team for three years. Her senior year she transferred to the University of Arizona to continue to play volleyball and earned honorable mention All Pac 10 Conference.

**Korie Gardner Schofield**

**West Bend East Class of 2000**

The Gardner family's amazing contributions to West Bend East athletics continued with Korie Gardner, who also played volleyball for four years and was part of two WIAA State Championship teams in 1997 and 1999 and one runner up team. Korie earned first team all conference, all county, and all state honors, and was named to the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-Area first team. Korie played basketball and soccer for three years at East.

Korie attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and played volleyball as a defensive specialist for four years, during which time she was named Academic All Big Ten Conference twice, the team was Big Ten Conference Champions in 2000 and 2001, and runner up at the NCAA Championships in 2000.

**Christie Gardner Rohlinger**

**West Bend East Class of 2002**

More WIAA State Championships for West Bend East volleyball aligned with Christie Gardner's tenure at the school. She too competed in volleyball for four years and during that time East won two state championships in 1999 and 2000, along with a runner-up finish in 2001. During her career at East, Christie was named to first team all conference, first team all county, first team all state, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* all-area first team, and was a three-time All American. Christie still holds the state record for digs and kills which she set in 2000.

In 2001, Christie led her club team, Milwaukee Sting, to the under-17 Junior Olympics National Championship and was named to the All-American Team and received the tournament's Most Valuable Player Award.

At East, Christie played two years of basketball and four years of soccer where she earned first team all-conference honors in her three years on varsity.

Christie attended Northwestern University where she led her team to their first NCAA Championships appearance in 20 years. In her senior year she was named to the Big Ten Conference honorable mention team.

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