



Stermer among 1999 inductees



Mr. Art Stermer, a 1949 graduate of Mauch Chunk High School was a two-sports star, excelling in both baseball and basketball. Stermer is one of the 1999 Jim Thorpe Hall of Fame inductees who will be honored on Saturday April 17 during 10th anniversary ceremonies at Memorial Park Hall.

Only the second player in the annals of Mauch Chunk High School basketball to letter all four years, he accumulated 861 points during his career.

Named to the Mountain League first team his junior and senior years, he captained the 1948-49 squad which finished 17-4 and captured the "mythical" Carbon County/Panther Valley Championship.

In recognition of his talents, Stermer was recruited by Lafayette and Muhlenberg Colleges. After joining the service during the Korean War, he played on the 12th Infantry Regimental basketball team.

His stellar basketball career was eclipsed, however, by his baseball accomplishments. He played four years of American Legion Junior baseball for the Mauch Chunk Legion – post 304, coached by "Hall of Famer" Mickey Hodor.

His outstanding play his sophomore, junior and senior years resulted in his selection as a Tri-County League All-Star for three consecutive years.

Stermer lead the 1947 team (14-7) with a .377 batting average and helped them reach the league championship and district playoffs.

The 1948 team captured the league crown with a record of 151 and won the district title. The team's final record was 21-3-2. Stermer batted .385 and was selected to play in the American Legion Junior all-Star (Game at Shibe Park in Philadelphia.)

In 1949, he was recruited by the Allentown Cardinals and the Philadelphia Athletics with whom he eventually signed a contract. He played for Lexington, N.C. team of the North Carolina State League during the 1950 season.

Mr. Stermer worked for the Central Railroad of New Jersey and PP&L Company until his retirement in 1994. He currently resides in Jim Thorpe with his wife, Jackie, along with his son Robby and daughter-in-law, Sue.





Brown was hitting long shots, well before the three-pointer



Whenever local basketball fans discuss outstanding players, the name Bob Brown always enters in the conversation.

A 1967 Jim Thorpe graduate, Brown, led the 1965-66 Olympians to the PIAA Class C Eastern Basketball Championship, averaging 18 points per game during the playoffs.

In his two year career, he scored 1,101 points for a team that recorded a 39-10 record.

Long before there was a “three-point” shot, Brown was booming from the corners and above the key. If his long range shots counted as much as do today, he probably would have scored 1,400 points.

His career average was 22.4 points per game and he is the only player in the history of Mauch Chunk, East Mauch Chunk, Mauch Chunk Catholic and Jim Thorpe High Schools to score over 1,000 points in only two seasons.

In his sophomore year, he played on the highest scoring team in Jim Thorpe history. It averaged 82.1 points per game and went over

the century mark five times. Brown scored 536 points in 22 games, winning the Carbon County/Panther Valley scoring championship. He also set the rebounding record that season with 26 boards vs. Marian.

The following year, Brown’s outstanding play continued and at the end of the season he was selected to the AP All-State Team as Honorable Mention.

The 1965-66 Olympians, led by Brown, won the PIAA Class S Eastern Championship with a 23-5 record. Brown scored 565 points that year and had a single game high of 44 against Edwardsville, the District 2 champ in the playoffs.

After high school, he coached the Immaculate Conception Squires (CYO) before enlisting the Air Force. Bob and his wife, Mary, own and operate Bob’s Store in Jim Thorpe. They have three daughters, Tricia, Heather, and Jennifer, and daughter-in-law, Sue.





Herman was successful as coach, player



A 1972 Jim Thorpe graduate, Don Herman has successful careers both as a player and a coach. As co-captain of the 1971-72 Olympian basketball team, he led the local cagers to a third-place finish PIAA Class "C" State Tournament. The team finished the season with a fine 21-8 record in reaching the PIAA Class "C" Eastern final.

During his junior year, he scored 303 points for a 15.1 points per game average. As a senior, he led the team in scoring with a 18.6 average and tallied 484 points, ranking fourth in scoring in Carbon County/Panther Valley area. He scored a total of 787 points in his career. At the end of the 1971-72 season, Herman was named a Lehigh-Northampton League First Team All-Star and was selected as a member of the UPI Class "C" First Team All-State squad. He was the only player from the Allentown area to receive First Team All-State recognition.

Herman's coaching career began in 1977 when he became the junior high and freshman basketball coach at Jim Thorpe. After coaching the junior high for six years, he coached the junior varsity at JTHS in the 1983-84 and was the varsity coach from 1985 to 1987. The 1985-86 team had 22-8 record (only the fifth team in Jim Thorpe history to win more than 20 games in a season) and won the Division II championship of the Schuylkill League. Having defeated the Division III champion, Schuylkill Haven, 63-60, the team lost to Panther Valley in the Schuylkill League championship. In the PIAA state playoffs, Herman's team defeated Lackawanna Trail (71-57), then-undefeated Galeton (76-74), and Freeland (72-52) before losing the Eastern Championship to Bristol 81-52.

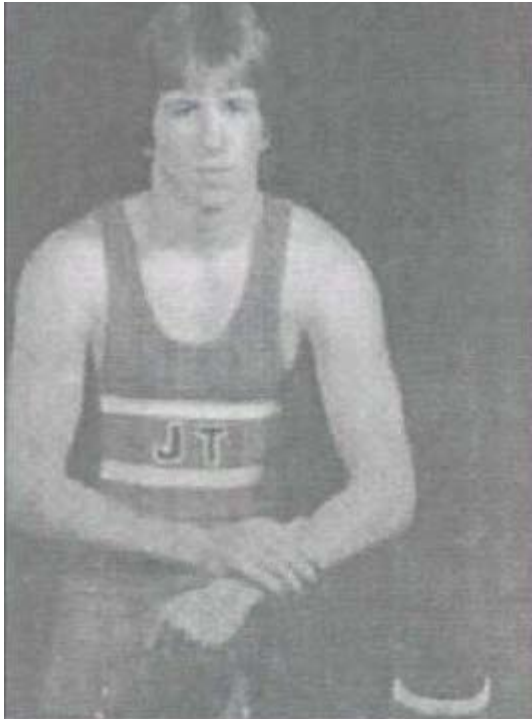
Herman is only the second player in Jim Thorpe/Mauch Chunk history to be voted a First Team All-State Basketball selection (Bill Bechtold was the first player elected.)

Don, his wife Connie, and Joey reside in Jim Thorpe. He has taught sixth grade at Our Lady of the Valley parochial school in Lansford for 22 years.





Foster only JT district winner



Farley Foster, a 1977 Jim Thorpe graduate, was an outstanding wrestler who lettered all four years (1974-77) and established the record for most career wins on the mat.

Foster will be honored, along with others for his induction into the Jim Thorpe Area Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 17 at Memorial Hall.

In his freshman year while competing in the 98-pound class, Foster went 9-8-2 against predominantly AAA and AAAA competition and took third place in the Jim Thorpe Christmas Tournament.

During his sophomore season, his record was 10-7-2 while wrestling 112 pounds.. He again was a third-place finisher at the Jim Thorpe Christmas Tournament, won the "sectionals" with two pins, and advanced to the semifinals of districts.

That sophomore year, he was named the varsity MVP and won the "Takedown Club Award" and the "Iron Man Award."

Foster, during his junior season, was elected team captain, wrestled at 126 pounds and had a 15-4 record. He finished second at the Jim Thorpe Christmas Tournament, won "sectionals" again, copped third place at districts and was named varsity MVP.

As a senior he capped off his brilliant career with a 19-3 record, including 14 pins. During the season, he had a string of 10 consecutive falls. Two of his losses were by one point and the third loss occurred in overtime.

He was a second-place finisher in the Jim Thorpe Christmas Tournament, won the "sectionals", was crowned the District 11 champion at 132 pounds and placed fourth at Regionals. He was selected MVP and won the C & D Award (given to the school's top wrestler).

Foster is the only district wrestling champion in the 33 years of Jim Thorpe wrestling history. He was the first three-time MVP and first three-time sectionals champ. In 76 matches, he suffered only two pins (both coming his freshman year) and recorded 31 pins.

The majority of his matches were against AAA and AAAA competition, which makes his record even more impressive. He not only excelled at wrestling but also on the football field where he played halfback for the Olympians and received varsity letters in 1976 and 1977.

Farley attended and graduated "Cum Laude" from East Stroudsburg University in 1981 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies. He coached wrestling at Jim Thorpe from 1986-89. Currently he lives in Jim Thorpe with his family and is co-worker of Foster-Kmetz Woodworking





Kathy Kilgore-Malarky is all-time leading scorer in JT history



To reach the plateau of scoring 1,000 points on the basketball court is a considerable feat and the Jim Thorpe Area has had quite a few individuals who can claim this honor for a locale of its size.

The names of former great such as “Stink” Hewitt, Billy Bechtold, Jack Kmetz, Bob Brown, Scott Kmetz, etc. recall memories of outstanding offensive talent. However, the all-time leading scorer in the history of local basketball is Kathy Kilgore-Malarky, a member of the Jim Thorpe High School girls basketball team from 1980-1983. In four years of varsity play, Kathy scored a record 1,487 points.

As a freshman, she scored 54 points in nine games but in her sophomore year, she exploded for a new record – 465 points. During the season she also set a record for the most foul shots made (175)

and set the record for steals in a single game (9 vs. Slatington).

In her junior year she scored 359 points (17.9 points per game average) and was selected the team MVP. Kilgore shattered her own scoring record in her senior season when she amassed 609 points and was the Schuylkill League North leading scorer averaging 23.63 points per game.

She was the captain of the team and was once again selected as the team MVP. She was also named to the “All Anthracite Second Team”.

Kilgore not only holds the record for career points but also holds the most rebounds (887) and the single-game rebound mark of 27. Numerous other records attained include: the most points in a single game (42); most steals in a season (68); most free throws made in single game (15); most field goals made in a single game (18); most offensive rebounds in a season (100); and the most field goals made in a single season.

Kathy’s athletic talent extended beyond the hardwoods. She played four years of softball and during sophomore year was selected the team MVP.

Kathy resides in (Penn Forest Township) Jim Thorpe with her husband and family and is the owner of “Kathy’s Hair Care.”





1965 Jim Thorpe gridgers capture PV/Carbon Football Championship



Not only did the 1965 Jim Thorpe High football team, coached by Hall of Fame mentor Angie Konstas, Jim Kroculick and Ed Lucas become the first JT team to capture the Panther Valley/Carbon County Football Championship, it was the first to establish a winning record.

In the process, it laid the groundwork for the next three years when the Olympians won three straight titles and went 21-3.

Led by QB Bob Hodor, running backs Ed Jordan, Mike Paulus and Paul Scrimcovsky; an outstanding offensive and defense line; and superb defensive backfield, the team went 6-2 against a difficult schedule.

The Class C School played Class A and B and won over Marian, Pleasant Valley, Pocono Mountain, Tri-Valley, Northwestern and Frackville. Overall, the team averaged 27 points per game and gave up only 8 ppg.

Numerous records established by this team included being the highest scoring squad, most points in a single game (61) against Northwestern and the best defensive team. At the end of the season, Hodor was selected the MVP.

