

*Carl Sandburg  
High School*



*Athletic Hall of Fame  
Ceremony*

November 2, 2018

# *Athletic Hall of Fame*

The purpose of the Carl Sandburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor Eagle athletes, coaches and supporters who have excelled in their respective sports and who have helped bring honor, recognition and excellence to Carl Sandburg High School. Tonight we will honor thirteen (13) individuals and one (1) State Championship team for their outstanding achievements and contributions to Carl Sandburg High School. We welcome you to this celebration and know that you share our pride in the accomplishments of these individuals.

## **CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 230 BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Richard Nogal, *President*  
Mrs. Melissa Gracias, *Vice-President*  
Mrs. Susan Dalton, *Secretary*  
Mrs. Kate Murphy-Peterson, *Board Member*  
Mr. Denis Ryan, *Board Member*  
Mr. Patrick O'Sullivan, *Board Member*  
Mr. Tony Serratore, *Board Member*

## **CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 230 ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. James Gay, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Dr. Kim Dryier, *Assistant Superintendent for Instruction*  
Mr. John Lavelle, *Assistant Superintendent for Business Services*  
Dr. Julia Wheaton, *Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources*

## **CARL SANDBURG HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

Ms. Jennifer Tyrrell, *Principal*  
Mr. Brian Klene, *Associate Principal*  
Mr. Derrick Smith, *Associate Principal*  
Mr. Greg Gardner, *Assistant Principal*  
Mr. Tom Freyer, *Athletic Director*

# Program

WELCOME.....Ms. Jennifer Tyrrell  
OPENING REMARKS.....Mr. Tom Freyer  
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS.....Mr. Mark Peterson

## INDUCTEES

*Curt and Garth Ironson*

*Bob Hicks*

*Sarah Kustok*

*Brittany (McIntyre) Rosinski*

*Todd Mensik*

*Joann Mutsch*

*Kim Nelson-Brown*

Acceptance: Erik Nelson

*Carole (O'Connor) Garczynski*

Acceptance: Jean Blummer

*Tom Seliga*

Acceptance: Seliga Family

*Ernie Sharpe*

Acceptance: Tom Freyer

*Don Stevens*

*Ron Zinn*

Acceptance: Jerry Zinn

*1996 Boys Volleyball Team*

Acceptance: Joann Holverson

## *Curt and Garth Aronson*



Curt and Garth Aronson will forever be associated with Carl Sandburg Athletics and Eagles football. The Aronson family embodies the ideals of what being a true Eagle supporter is all about. Their father was the head statistician for the Eagles football program dating back to the early 1960s. He also played a key part in securing funding to install the lights in the football stadium. Curt joined his father as his assistant statistician in 1977 and held that role until 1992. In 1993 Curt assumed the role of head statistician and his brother Garth became his assistant. As of two weeks ago, the Aronson brothers are still running up and down the sidelines collecting stats for the Eagles.

The Aronson brothers are not only dedicated volunteers to the football program, but they are also generous individuals who take the time and energy to raise thousands of dollars for Carl Sandburg Athletes as members of the Carl Sandburg Athletic Alumni Association. Curt has been the President of the association for the past 15 years, and Garth has been the secretary for the last 25 years. They host the Athletic Alumni Golf Outing every year in early fall and all proceeds go to fund scholarships for Carl Sandburg athletes. Each year, the Aronson brothers attend our senior honors night and pass out \$1,000 scholarships to deserving student-athletes. The dedication and support that the Aronson family has displayed for Carl Sandburg High School over the last several decades is truly appreciated.

## *Bob Hicks*



Bob Hicks attended Carl Sandburg High School from 1974 - 1977 and is considered one of the school's greatest cross country and track athletes of all-time.

Cross country and track at Carl Sandburg have always been sports for the dedicated, the hard-working and the honorable. Bob exemplifies each and every one of those qualities. His awards at Sandburg include six Conference Championships, five All-State honors, and he was named Male Athlete of the Year in 1977.

Bob achieved the ultimate award when he won the mile run IHSA State Championship in 1977. To this day, Bob holds the fifth fastest time in school history on the state course at Detweiller Park.

Bob continued his athletic career in college, competing in cross country and track for Auburn University. During his time at Auburn, he was a three-time SEC champion in the 1000 meter dash, a seven-time All-SEC athlete, and a two-time All-American.

Bob received his bachelor's degree in Zoology from Auburn University and later earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Bob currently lives in St. Cloud, Florida with his wife Stephanie and daughter Sydney and is a veterinarian at the Boggy Creek Animal Hospital in Kissimmee, Florida, of which he is the owner and medical director.

## *Sarah Kustok*



Sarah Kustok was a two sport athlete for the Eagles. She was a three-year varsity starter for the volleyball team and was a key member of the 1998 State Championship team. She set numerous Sandburg volleyball records including 1,233 career digs and 724 perfect passes. She had a 97% successful serve rate and scored 692 game points throughout her career. Her skill, personality, and leadership on and off the court were evident in two of the best seasons Sandburg Volleyball has ever had.

Sarah also dominated the competition on the basketball court. She was a four-year varsity starter for the Eagles and capped off an incredible freshman year by winning Player of the Year honors. She helped the Eagles to a 4th place IHSA State Finals finish in 1997. Sarah also earned All-State Honors her senior year and was named Chicago Sun-Times Player of the Year in 2000.

Upon graduating from Sandburg, Sarah continued her career at DePaul University where she played for the Blue Demons basketball team from 2000-2004. Her dominating ways continued at the collegiate level. She ranks seventh all time in career three-point field goal percentage and ranks fourth all time in three-point field-goal percentage for a single season. She led DePaul to back-to-back NCAA tournament appearances in 2003 and 2004.

Sarah began her broadcasting career with Comcast SportsNet Chicago in 2009. Three years later she accepted a position with the Brooklyn Nets as a game analyst and has since become a member of the YES' Nets broadcast team. Her continued success has opened up new doors, as she is now working with FOX Sports as an analyst and sideline reporter covering various sporting events around the country.

## *Brittany (McIntyre) Rosinski*



Brittany (McIntyre) Rosinski was a dominating pitcher for the Carl Sandburg Eagles. A member of the varsity softball team since her freshman year, Brittany earned All-Conference and All-Area honors all four years. She was named All-State her junior and senior seasons and was voted three-time Player of the Year by multiple media publications. Brittany led the Eagles to four consecutive appearances in the IHSA State Finals finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place in 1999, 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 2000, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 2001 and 4<sup>th</sup> place in 2002.

In her senior season Brittany had a 15-2 record, 0.33 ERA, 175 strikeouts, 142 innings pitched, 12 shutouts and a .316 batting average. She finished her career at Carl Sandburg as the State record holder for most strikeouts in an IHSA State tournament game (20), and least amount of walks thrown in a season (8).

Brittany was just as impressive in the classroom at Carl Sandburg. She graduated in the top 10% of her class, was an Illinois State Scholar, member of the National Honors Society, the A.P. Gold Team, and the SICA All-Academic Team.

Brittany went on to star for the UIC Flames. She earned multiple achievements including: the Horizon League Academic Honor Roll, Horizon League Pitcher of the Tournament, and Horizon League Pitcher of the Week. Her team won the Horizon League championship in 2004 and 2006. She ended her college career with 124 appearances, 593 innings pitched, 47 wins, 54 complete games, 13 shutouts, and 341 strikeouts.

Brittany is currently employed at Citi's Private Bank and resides in Orland Park with her husband Ted and their two children Maddie and Mack.

## *Todd Mensik*



Todd Mensik attended Carl Sandburg High School from 1989 - 1993. He was a two-sport athlete for the Eagles and is remembered as one of the best baseball players to walk the halls of Sandburg, if not the best. According to his former coach, Doug Sutor, "He was the best all-around player that I ever had the pleasure of coaching."

As a member of the varsity baseball team since his freshman year, Todd earned All-Conference honors all four years. As a sophomore, he led the state of Illinois in home runs with 14 and earned All-State and Player of the Year honors. Todd did not miss a beat his junior and senior seasons. He would go on to be named All-State again and was twice named All-American by Collegiate Baseball and Mizuno. In Todd's final season with the Eagles he had a .430 batting average, 7 home runs and was 9-3 on the mound, which completed his high school pitching record at 31-7.

Todd was heavily recruited out of high school and chose to play for Chicago Cubs legend Don Kessinger at Ole Miss over Nebraska, Kansas, Villanova, and Miami. Coach Kessinger made the right decision in pursuing Todd, a key member of the 17th best recruiting class in the nation. Todd earned SEC Player of the Week honors at Ole Miss and attracted the attention of several MLB scouts. Todd was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in the 12th round of the MLB draft his junior year at Ole Miss. He spent eight years in the minor leagues and was awarded the Single A Visalia League MVP in 1999.

Todd is currently employed by Midwest Orthopedics as the Vice President of Patient Services and Marketing. He lives in Mokena with his wife Heather and sons Landon and Luke and continues his passion for baseball by coaching his son's travel team.

## *Joanne Mutsch*



Joanne Mutsch graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and health. Upon graduating she pursued a career in education and joined the Physical Education Department at Carl Sandburg. Joanne spent 34 years dedicating her life to the students and athletes of Carl Sandburg High School.

She played an instrumental role in the development of both the boys and girls volleyball programs at Sandburg and throughout Illinois. In her early years at Sandburg the boys program was considered a club sport. Due to her organization and leadership skills the boys volleyball program became an IHSA recognized sport in 1992.

Joanne coached the first girls volleyball team to ever make it to the IHSA State Finals. Under her leadership, the girls team placed second in 1980 and placed third in 1981. Her teams earned twelve IHSA Regional Titles, six Conference Titles and won more than 350 games during her tenure.

Along with her extremely impactful leadership at Sandburg, Joanne also engaged in numerous other volleyball-related positions for 35 years. She was an assistant volleyball coach at Northwestern University, President of the Illinois High School Volleyball Coaches Association and co-founded the Illinois High School Volleyball All-Star Game.

Joanne currently splits time between her homes in Illinois and Northern Wisconsin.

## *Kim Nelson-Brown*



Kim Nelson-Brown made a name for herself early on in her playing career with the Eagles by setting a new freshman record for most kills in a season with 106. As a senior captain she led the Eagles in a number of statistics including hitting efficiency, blocks, kill percentage, digs, and aces. Kim was named 1st Team All-State and All-Area by several media publications and was named Athlete of the Year her senior year.

In addition to her athletic success, Kim was an all-star in the classroom. She earned honor roll recognition all four years and received the Academic Achievement Award as a senior.

Upon graduating from Carl Sandburg, Kim continued her athletic and academic career at Illinois State University. She holds several ISU records, including being #10 in ISU history in total digs with 1,201. In 2002, she was inducted into Illinois State University's Athletic Department Hall of Fame.

Kim currently works at Illinois Wesleyan University as the Head Volleyball Coach, Associate Athletic Director, and Associate Professor. Kim has coached her teams to three CCIW Championships and was recognized as CCIW Coach of the Year in 2003. Under Kim's leadership, Illinois Wesleyan was ranked 11th in the country in 2017 which is the highest national ranking in the program's history.

Kim Nelson-Brown's character continues to shine in her community involvements. She has instilled in her players a deep sense of responsibility to give back to their community by getting the team involved with numerous community service programs including the Polar Plunge. Her teams have raised over \$45,000 for Special Olympics through their efforts with Polar Plunge.

## *Carole (O'Connor) Garczynski*



Carole (O'Connor) Garczynski was a three sport athlete during her years at Carl Sandburg High School. She participated as a varsity athlete in basketball, volleyball, and track and field. Carole is best remembered for her athleticism and dedication to track and field. She unofficially broke the state high jump record after her first track meet sophomore year. She suffered a broken collarbone due to a car crash shortly after that meet. Despite her injury, she managed to come back and participate in Conference and IHSA Regionals later in the season.

Carole's greatest athletic accomplishment occurred in 1978 when she won the IHSA State Championship in high jump with a mark of 5'8" making her the first female State Champion in the history of Carl Sandburg High School. Her record height also surpassed a mark previously established by legendary athlete Jackie Joyner Kersee.

After high school, Carole continued her track career, winning multiple meets while attending Eastern Illinois University. Following college graduation, she became the 1996 runner of the year in the Fort Myers Track Club and ran in the Chicago Marathon impressively earning a time of 3:29:30 which qualifies for the Boston Marathon. To this day, Carole continues to run in multiple local 5k races. Her personal record of 18:52 for a 5k is a testament to the skill that Carole possesses.

Carole now works as a substitute teacher at Fort Myers High school.

## *Tom Seliga*



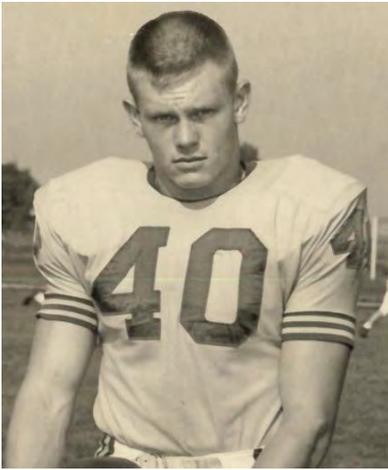
Tom Seliga was a prominent figure in the Carl Sandburg community. He joined the Physical Education Department at Carl Sandburg High School in 1969 and served the students and athletes at Carl Sandburg for 27 years.

Tom was named the head football coach in 1981 and held the position until 1992. During that time the football team won three conference championships, appeared in the IHSA playoffs ten times and reached the quarterfinals three times. Under Tom's direction, the

Eagles went undefeated in 1987. Tom had one of the highest overall winning percentages in Illinois and ended his coaching career with a whopping 89 wins. Tom's hard work and dedication to the Eagle football program lead to his induction into the Illinois Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

Tom Seliga passed away on May 11, 1995. To pay tribute to the beloved coach, Carl Sandburg High School named its football field after Mr. Seliga. The Class of 1995 put its class gift toward the monument and former football players donated their services in creating the monument that is located in the south end zone of the stadium. His enthusiasm for teaching student-athletes to work their hardest in and out of the classroom established an unforgettable legacy in the halls and on the fields of Carl Sandburg. Tom Seliga will always be remembered as an Eagle that left a long-lasting and positive impact on the entire Sandburg community.

## *Ernie Sharpe*



Ernie Sharpe's dedication to his education and the game of football make him truly stand out as a top athlete in Sandburg history. Ernie earned All-State honors in 1962 and 1963 as a halfback. He is the only Sandburg football player to receive All-State honors twice. Ernie also received All-Conference honors in 1961, 1962 and 1963. He played both sides of the ball for the Eagles and was one of the most versatile athletes on the team.

Ernie gained 2,652 career rushing yards. To this day, Ernie holds the record for most points scored in a season with 136 points, a record that has stood for over 55 years! He was able to accomplish that feat in only eight games. In recognition of his dominating performances, Carl Sandburg High School retired Ernie's jersey (#40).

Ernie continued his playing career at the University of Michigan where he was a member of the football team from 1963 - 1967. He has four career touchdowns for Michigan and averaged 3.3 yards per carry on 83 attempts. After earning his undergraduate degree at Michigan, Ernie completed his Juris Doctorate at the University of Michigan Law School. Ernie enjoyed a successful career as an attorney in Michigan where he specialized in commercial real estate, banking and securities, and investment fraud. Ernie and his family currently reside in Florida.

## *Don Stevens*



Don Stevens was an instrumental member of the Carl Sandburg wrestling team during his time at Sandburg.

He was a three-time state qualifier for the Eagles and finished 4th in the IHSA State Meet his sophomore year. Don's ambitions did not stop there. He went undefeated his junior and senior seasons winning 64 matches in a row. Don won back-to-back IHSA State Championships during that time. He finished his Sandburg career with an impressive 112 victories and

only 10 losses.

Don continued his wrestling career at Southern Illinois University where he was a three-time NCAA Division II All-American and was a two-time NCAA Division II National Champion in 1983 and 1984. He placed eighth at the 1983 NCAA Division I Championships and eighth at the 1984 NCAA Division I Championships. Don's career record at Southern Illinois was 101-25-2.

Don Stevens lives in Arizona with his wife Denise and children Brin and Taylor. He works for Yavapai College as a maintenance technician and also owns and operates D&W Electrical Services, Inc. In addition to working, Don finds time to leave his mark on future generations as a wrestling coach.

## *Ron Zinn*



Ron Zinn was a two-time United States Olympian who was born in Peoria, Illinois in 1939. Ron Zinn moved to Orland Park in 1953 when the town's population was only 800. In his time at Sandburg, Ron was on the honor roll and excelled in sports where he earned eight varsity letters and was named Sandburg's most valuable athlete in 1957.

After graduating from Sandburg, Ron briefly attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa before he was admitted to the United States Military Academy at West Point. At West Point, he was the first cadet to represent the United States in the Olympics. Ron represented the United States in the 1960 and 1964 Olympics competing as a race walker. He placed 6th in the 1964 Olympic 20km walk which is one of the top American performances ever in that event.

After his Olympic career, Ron was deployed to Vietnam in 1965. As a new platoon leader, Ron devoted himself vigorously not only to learning the infantry skill necessary for combat but also to caring for his fellow soldiers. In Vietnam, Ron led a heroic rescue mission to save the life of his squad leader. On July 7, 1965, Ron sacrificed his life while trying to save the life of his patrolman. After Ron's death, his company renamed their camp to Camp Zinn for the rest of the war due to his dedication and heroism. Ron was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and an expert marksmanship citation. He was posthumously promoted to Captain. Captain Ronald L. Zinn is buried at the West Point Cemetery in West Point, New York.

Ron truly showed us the meaning of dedication from his athletic and academic excellence at Carl Sandburg, to his commitment at the Olympics, and his heroism in Vietnam. As Ron once said, "There will always be things in life that we do not want to do, but we will do them if we are to succeed."

## *1996 Boys Volleyball*

Led by Head Coach Wayne O'Brien and assistant coach Joann Holverson, the boys volleyball team defeated Wheaton North High School to win the IHSA State Championship in 1996. Their championship was only the school's second State Championship in its 40 year history. The Eagles finished the 1996 season with a 39-2 record, which is the 9th best all time record in I.H.S.A. history.

The Eagles were led by starters John Bird, Steve Fuller, Andy Walker, Ken Regan, Kevin Ludden, Doug Brylka and Kyle Owens. The team prided itself on their "family values" and played together as a team. All members of the squad had one common goal, to win a state championship. According to the coaching staff, "The 1996 team were the most cohesive athletes that ever came through the halls of Carl Sandburg."

The 1996 boys volleyball team started the long chain of volleyball dominance that followed. Several members of the 1996 team returned to the State Championship game in 1997 where the team was State Runner-Up. The program has won four IHSA State Championships, placed 2nd in State twice, has one 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish and one 4th place finish. The 1996 volleyball team will always be remembered as the first team to bring a volleyball State Championship to Carl Sandburg High School.



## 1996 Boys Volleyball Team

Matt Abbeduto

John Bird

Doug Brylka

Dave Deutsch

Steve Fuller

Andy Goehl

Tim Hanson

Keith Czerwiec

Kevin Ludden

Mike Maloney

Kyle Owens

Ken Regan

Andy Walker

Head Coach: Wayne O'Brien

Assistant Coaches: Joann Holverson

**SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Sean Airola  
Mr. Dick Conrad  
Mr. Tom Freyer  
Mr. Greg Gardner  
Mr. Al Macey  
Mrs. Katie O'Connell  
Mr. Dave Wierzal

**CARL SANDBURG HEAD COACHES**

Todd Allen	Mike Bruce
Tara Capouch	Jim Fabianski
Nick Fotopoulos	Scott Friedericks
Kim Huelsman	Tom Kubowicz
Jeff Kwilose	Anna McBride
Chris Milo	Jim Morsovillo
Joe Nemeth	Matt Niemeier
John O'Malley	Brian Ostrander
Tony Pena	Scott Peters
Clinton Polz	Jill Roberson
David Vales	Sue Vogel
Desi Vuillaume	Mike White

*Once an Eagle,*



*Always an Eagle!*