

Athletic Achievements of Benedictine High School Alumni

There is probably no other high school in the United States that can match the championship accomplishments of the Benedictine High School alumni, who have excelled both on and off the field.

The sign on the front of the school proudly proclaims Benedictine High School as the “Home of Champions.” In addition to the great athletic tradition that the students of Benedictine have added to the championship legacy, these alumni listed below have lived up to that billing as champions or have been recognized as reaching the top of their chosen fields.

Benedictine alumni have won 7 Super Bowl rings, and other NFL titles, a British Open golf title, World Series titles, an Indianapolis 500 victory, a national collegiate baseball title, college football national championships, Pulitzer Prize nominations, and an Emmy Award. And one of our alums was a golf instructor to U.S. presidents and Hollywood stars.

We are proud of the accomplishments of these “Men of Benedictine” to reach the top.

Super Bowl



Chuck Noll '49 coached the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl titles in the 1970's.

Pat Moriarty '73, who played one season with the Cleveland Browns, earned another Super Bowl ring as a Vice-President, Finance with the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl XXXV.

Gene Mruczkowski '98, an offensive lineman, won two rings with the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXVIII and Super Bowl XXXIX.

Super Bowl appearances

Chuck Noll '49 was a defensive coach with the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III.

George Sefcik '58 was an assistant offensive coach in Super Bowl XVI with the Cincinnati Bengals and in Super Bowl XXXIII with the Atlanta Falcons.



Denny Marcin '60 was a defensive coach with the New York Giants in Super Bowl XXXV when the team faced the Baltimore Ravens. Benedictine was guaranteed to win a Super Bowl ring as Pat Moriarty '73 was a VP – Finance with the Ravens.

National Football League title

Chuck Noll '49 was a linebacker and guard for the Cleveland Browns NFL title teams in 1954 and 1955.

Stan Sczurek '58 was a linebacker of the Cleveland Browns NFL title team that beat the Baltimore Colts 27-0 in 1964.

American Football League title

Chuck Noll '49 was a defensive coach for the San Diego Chargers that defeated the Boston Patriots 51-10 to win the title.

United States Football League title

Tom Moriarty '72 was a member of the 1983 United States Football League champions Michigan Panthers. Moriarty was an All-Pro special teams player with the Atlanta Falcons and the Pittsburgh Steelers. He had a five-year NFL career.

Canadian Football League



Tim Cheatwood '97 was a Canadian Football League All-Star in 2004 while spending five seasons with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats as an import defensive end. Cheatwood, who played football at Ohio State University, is currently with the Edmonton Eskimos.

World Series

Mike Easler '69 won a World Series title as a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates “We are Family” championship team. Known as the “Hit Man,” Easler spent most of his 14-year Major League career with Houston, Pittsburgh and Boston. In 1981, he was a Major League All-Star.

Bruce Manno '71 was the Assistant Player Personnel Director for the St. Louis Cardinals 2006 World Series champions.

British (Golf) Open



Tom Weiskopf

Tom Weiskopf '60 won the 1973 British Open. He was a long-time competitor on the PGA tour. He also served as a network TV golf analyst and is a course designer living in Arizona.

PGA Tour

Dan Forlani '51 played for several years on the Tour with a best finish of fourth place in the Texas Open, now known as the Byron Nelson Open. Later, Forlani became the head professional at the La Costa Resort and Spa in Carlsbad, California (near San Diego) from 1956 to 1963. Among his golf students were two U.S. presidents, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon. In addition, Forlani's list of famous students included Hollywood stars such as Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Frankie Avalon, and the husband-wife comedy team of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, as well as pro athletes Mickey Mantle and Don Drysdale.

Indianapolis 500

Jim Trueman '53, founder of the Red Roof Inns, owned the car that Bobby Rahal drove to win the 1986 event. Suffering from colon cancer, Trueman lived long enough to see the race, but died 10 days later.

NCAA football national champions

Larry Zelina '67 was a member of the Ohio State "Super Sophs" recruiting class. He was a starter on the '68 OSU national title team. Sadly, Zelina died of a heart attack in March 2005.

Ivan Douglas '98 was a starting lineman on the 2002 Ohio State national title football team.

George Sefcik '58 was an assistant coach on the University of Notre Dame 1966 national championship football team. That team played in one of the most famous college football games of all-time, a 10-10 tie with Michigan State University.

NCAA Division III national football champions

Greg Rufus '74 and **Bill Davis '75** were both key members of the 1978 Baldwin-Wallace College Division III national championship football team.

George Prusock '93, Joe Prevesk '94, and Antoine Dillard '00, were all members of at least one national championship football team at Mount Union College.

Current Benedictine assistant football coach **Joe Schiavone** earned two National Championship awards at Mount Union.

NCAA baseball national champions

Tom Zdanowicz '87 was a pitcher on the 1990 University of Georgia national championship baseball team.

Pulitzer Prize nominations

Terry Pluto '73 is a two-time nominee for the Pulitzer Prize. A long-time sports columnist for the Akron Beacon Journal, Pluto returned to **The Plain Dealer** in August 2007. He has written more than a dozen books and his book "Loose Balls: The Short, Wild Life of the American Basketball Association," ranks No. 13 on **Sports Illustrated's** list of the top 100 sports books of all time.

Emmy Award

Anthony '88 and Joe '89 Russo won an Emmy Award for best director of a comedy series "Arrested Development" in the spring of 2005.

Hollywood movie

Directed by **Anthony '88 and Joe '89 Russo**, the movie, "You, Me and DuPree" had a strong showing at the box office in 2006. The \$60 million Universal Studios movie starred Michael Douglas, Kate Hudson, Matt Dillon and Owen Wilson. **Anthony Russo** was the starting center on the Bengals 1987 team that fell one game short of reaching the state finals losing to Akron Buchtel. **Joe Russo** was a soccer player for the Bengals.

Benedictine grads currently in the NFL and CFL

Joe Zelenka '94 is the long-snapper with the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Gene Mruczkowski '98 (6-2, 305) is with the Miami Dolphins after earning two Super Bowl rings as an offensive lineman with the New England Patriots.

Scott Mruczkowski '00 (Gene's little brother at 6-4, 321) plays center for the San Diego Chargers.

Pat Moriarty '73 is VP Finance with the Baltimore Ravens. He earned a Super Bowl ring as a member of the front office in Super Bowl XXXV.

Denny Marciniak '60 is a defensive assistant coach with the New York Jets.

Tim Cheatwood '97 (6-4, 258) is currently with the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League.

Other notable accomplishments and highlights in athletics for Bengal alums

Major League Baseball

American League champions – Alex Slencz '91 is the Manager of Broadcasting for the Cleveland Indians during the 2007 season. You often heard his name mentioned on the air with radio broadcasters Tom Hamilton and Mike Hegan.

American League championship - Ken Redd '86 worked in the Corporate Marketing Department with the Cleveland Indians during the 1995 and 1997 American League title seasons.

National Football League

Mr. Irrelevant – Larry Wanke '86 garnered this honor as the last player (No. 334) selected in the 1991 National Football League draft. Wanke, who was chosen by the Super Bowl champion New York Giants, was flown to Newport Beach, California on June 23, 1991 to receive his crown and to participate in the city's "Irrelevant Week" festivities. He received the Lowsman Trophy from Mickey Mouse at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. Wanke originally played at the University of Pittsburgh, but transferred to John Carroll University. He is the Benedictine's all-time top quarterback.

National Basketball Association

Jeff Kadlub '92 is a corporate sales executive for the Cleveland Cavaliers in the 2006-07 season when the team advanced to the NBA Finals, losing to San Antonio.

National Hockey League

Jeff Kadlub '92 was a corporate sales executive for the Carolina Hurricanes which lost to the Detroit Red Wings in five games in the 2003 Stanley Cup finals.

NCAA Headquarters

Victor Hill '76 is Manager of Corporate Alliances for the NCAA at the headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. Previously, he was an Assistant Athletic Director at Cleveland State University.

Mid-American Conference

Dell Robinson '83 is an associate commissioner for Legislative and Compliance Services.

Professional Basketball

Pro Basketball - Eric Mudd '83 played professional basketball for 11 years throughout Europe in countries such as Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, and Switzerland. However, he is best remembered as a key member of the 1985-86 Cleveland State University team that in the NCAA tournament beat Bobby Knight's Indiana Hoosiers and St. Joseph (PA) University. Mudd scored 11 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in a last-second loss to future NBA great David Robinson and Navy in the Sweet 16.

Streak-breaker

Frank Kuchta '54 was named Associated Press "Lineman of the Week" for his performance in Notre Dame's 7-0 upset victory over Oklahoma in 1957 that ended the Sooners' 47-game winning streak, still the longest in major college football history. In this era of one-platoon football, Kuchta played on both the offensive and defensive lines.

Dancing with the (Super)Stars

Tom Evert '69

As a member of the world-renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company of New York City, Evert appeared with guest artists Mikhail Baryshnikov and Rudolf Nureyev on their world tour. Evert was called by one of his Bengals teammates as "the toughest, quickest, most determined lineman on the team." Later, he was voted by the student body to the school's greatest honor given to a senior in the spring of 1969 as "Mr. Benedictine."

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