



## *MEDIA RELEASE*

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*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:*  
Molly Griffin, Director of Communications  
St. Mary Catholic Schools  
920.722.7796 ext 803  
[mgriffin@smcatholicschools.org](mailto:mgriffin@smcatholicschools.org)

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*PHOTOS ATTACHED*

### **St. Mary Catholic High School Honors Sports Hall of Fame Inductees**

*Neenah/Menasha:* On Saturday, July 16, 2016, past and present members of the St. Mary Catholic High School community gathered to celebrate the induction of several athletes into the SMC Sports Hall of Fame. As part of a celebratory banquet, the following sports stand-outs were introduced by family members or former coaches.

**Greg "Hondo" Zielinski '75** played baseball for four years and basketball for three. In baseball, Greg was both a pitcher and shortstop. He played in the state tournament his freshman year and was named MVP as a senior. On the basketball team, Greg was an outstanding shooter as a starting guard his junior and senior year, and the team went to the 1974 and 1975 state tournaments under Coach Ralph McClone. Greg attended the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. He also played for the Menasha Macs and participated in recreational basketball and softball. As an adult, Greg has used his athletic talents to coach t-ball, Little League, Legion baseball and youth basketball in the community of Menasha, where he resides with his wife Georgiana and sons, J.J. and Jonathan. Hondo is known for scoring the first basket in both the 1974 and 1975 WISAA state tournaments!

**Dan Johnson '98** was a three-sport athlete with many accomplishments. A four-year player in baseball, Dan made all-conference as a junior. In basketball, he was a three-year letter winner, earning 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-conference as a senior. He was an integral part of the runner-up state team in 1998. Lettering in football all four years, Dan was named all-conference in 1997-98, conference defensive MVP in 1998, and the Post Crescent's 1<sup>st</sup> team all-area in 1998. One of Dan's favorite memories is of playing in a regional final in the new Zephyr gym. He scored a three pointer with two seconds left in regulation to tie the game. Because opponent Winnebago Lutheran was given a technical for calling a timeout they didn't have, he was able to make both free throws to win the game. Dan graduated with a BA from UW-River Falls and received an MBA from University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota in 2013. Today, he is head coach with the Eagan (MN) Athletic Association, a member of St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Woodbury, Minnesota and is employed as a vice president at Wells Fargo Wealth Management. Dan, his wife and their four children reside in Eagan, Minnesota.

**Sarah (Ott '00) Crowe** was an excellent two-sport athlete at SMC. Her volleyball honors included being named 1<sup>st</sup> team all-conference as a junior and 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-conference as a senior. As a varsity volleyball player, Sarah helped maintain SMC's tradition of winning regional titles for five consecutive years and a team appearance at the last WISAA state tournament. In basketball, Sarah played on the varsity squad for three years, and was a member of the 1998 State Championship team. In 1999, Sarah was named the team defensive player of the year and earned 1<sup>st</sup> team all-conference in 2000. Sarah earned her degree in early childhood/elementary education from Marian University where she played women's volleyball. Sarah, who currently teaches and coaches at Holy Spirit School in Darboy, resides in Combined Locks with husband Brian and daughters, Alayna, Autumn and Ava.

The **1986 State Championship Softball Team**, coached by Lois Zelinski-Henkel and Bob Plath, led the team to a 12-8 season record including a successful run at the state tournament that was played in Waukesha. The Zephyrs defeated Sheboygan Lutheran in the semi-final game 11-5, and then beat Somers Shoreland Lutheran 11-6 for the Class B WISAA state title. Team members included Maureen Burns, Sandy Mix Campbell, Molly Cummings, Susan Day, Lynn Sell Dorn, Deb Reuter Eggers, Renee Gauthier, Tina Pendergast Heavener, Mary Huelsbeck, Leslie Andrews Ladewig, Jenny Wittman Lenz, Lisa Lenz Murray, Michelle Roth Perry, Jodi Rusch Schmidt, Shawn Geroux Swiechowski, Kellie Losselyong Szymanski, Brenda Tully, Jodi Niesen Van Rossum, Barb Winter and Dawn Thiede Wittmann.

**St. Mary Catholic High School (SMCHS)** a regional high school, is part of [St. Mary Catholic Schools \(SMCS\)](#). The system also includes St. Mary Elementary Schools (St. Margaret Mary and St. Gabriel in Neenah, and St. Mary in Menasha), as well as St. St. Mary Catholic Middle School in Neenah. SMCHS is dedicated to the individual development of each student by providing an education focused on faith, academics and service.



*Greg Zielinski, Sarah (Ott) Crowe, Dan Johnson*



(l to r) Jodi Niesen Van Rossum, Lynn Sell Dorn, Coach Bob Plath, Sue Day Hawes, Leslie Andrews Ladewig, Maureen Burns, Brenda Tully, Molly Cummings, Shawn Geroux Swiechowski, Lisa Lenz Murray, Sandy Mix Campbell, Coach Lois Zelinski-Henkel

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