On Saturday, April 25, three alumnae and a former coach were inducted to the Saint Joseph Academy Athletic Hall of Fame in a special ceremony held at the school. This is the third class of honorees for the Hall of Fame, which began in 2011. The coach/athletes honored this year were: former SJA basketball coach Larry Chernauskas; cross country and track athlete Mary Moloney Sever ’05; basketball, track and volleyball player Sarah Lehane Walsh ’05; and cross country, softball, swimming and track player Lindsay Wolff ’05.

“The Athletic Hall of Fame was created to recognize the contributions of those who were instrumental in the growth and excellence of the athletic traditions and standards of Saint Joseph Academy,” shared Athletic Director John Manuszak. “We are so pleased to honor this group for their commitment and dedication to SJA.”

Larry Chernauskas
Larry has loved the game of basketball all of his life. He played throughout his school years, lettering twice in high school and four times at St. Francis College in Pennsylvania. He moved to Cleveland from Vandergrift, Pa., in 1954 and, at the age of 26, was named head basketball coach at West Tech High School, where he stayed for 26 years, coaching and teaching math.

He was recruited to SJA in 1982 by then-Athletic Director Don Kostell, who was (posthumously inducted as an inaugural member of the SJA Athletic Hall of Fame). Larry became the school’s head basketball coach and stayed through 1985. He returned to SJA in a consulting capacity from 1997-2006, working with fellow SJA Hall of Fame member Maureen Fallon Adler ’79. He still attends six to eight SJA home games a year, especially the SJA-Magnificat “Battle Across the Bridge.” Larry’s philosophy, coaching style, and love of the game combined to give him a stellar overall record of 508 wins and 280 losses. He has been inducted into a number of Halls of Fame, including the Ohio High School Basketball Hall of Fame, West Tech and his alma mater, St. Francis College. He was named Cleveland-area Coach of the Year four times.

Larry has been married to his wife, Janet, for 58 years. They have three children, including SJA graduate Linda Chernauskas Dunn ’81, son Larry Jr. and daughter Laura, as well as seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mary Moloney Sever ’05
Mary was captain of the cross country and track teams her senior year and earned a total of eight varsity letters during her high school career. She was the first athlete in SJA history to qualify for and compete in four state meets, which she did in cross country. Mary also qualified for and competed in two track state meets and was named All-Ohio and Academic All-Ohio in both sports. She has the fifth fastest time in school history in cross country and holds school records in track in the 3200m, the 4x1600 relay, and the distance medley relay.

Many of her treasured high school memories involved sports. She met her best friend, Alex Miles Stiffler ’06, through running. During their first cross country
She holds the school record in four track time All-Ohio performer in the 4x800 relay. All-Ohio awards all six times and was a two-country. She also qualified for Academic state meets—three for track, three for cross country teams her junior and senior years. Year and captain of the track and cross captain of the basketball team her senior year and, at one point, held the cross country state meet as a freshman. Lindsay was named Most Valuable Newcomer in cross country her freshman year at SJA and held the fastest freshman time. She qualified for and competed at the cross country state meet as a freshman and as a senior. She was named Most Valuable Swimmer all four years and was SJA’s first-ever district qualifier in swimming, ultimately qualifying all four years for the district meet. She was captain of the swim team her senior year and, at one point, held all of the records in swimming. Lindsay is the first-ever 12-letter athlete at SJA. She’s also the last athlete to letter in four different sports. In addition to four years of cross country and swimming, she ran track three years and played softball one year.

Watching her coaches and serving as team captain developed her leadership skills, which play an important role in her job as a planning manager for TJX Companies, Inc., the parent company behind TJ Maxx, Marshalls and Home Goods. Sarah attributes her athletic success to her faith, which was strengthened and enhanced at SJA. Saying a prayer together with her teammates calmed her pre-race nerves and gave her a helpful dose of encouragement. She also fondly remembers Sr. Mary Sheila Sweeney ’40 starting off basketball home games with a prayer and then staying to cheer on the team.

Sarah graduated from Boston College in 2009 with a double major in finance and marketing. She is married to Mark Walsh and lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

Lindsay Wolff ’05

At SJA, Sarah played basketball and ran track and cross country. She also played one year of volleyball. She especially loved basketball and track because her sisters — Katie Lehane ’06 and Molly Lehane ’08 — were on those teams at SJA, too.

She earned 10 letters across three sports throughout high school. Her speed, endurance and leadership skills served her well as a player and as team captain. She was captain of the basketball team her senior year and captain of the track and cross country teams her junior and senior years.

Sarah qualified for and competed in six state meets—three for track, three for cross country. She also qualified for Academic All-Ohio awards all six times and was a two-time All-Ohio performer in the 4x800 relay. She holds the school record in four track events: the 1600m, 4x800 relay, 4x1600 relay, and the distance medley relay. She holds the sixth fastest time in school history in cross country.

One of her favorite memories was the 2004 track state meet, where Sarah ran as anchor of the 4x800 relay with Caitlin Smith ’05, Alex Miles Stifler ’06 and Mary Moloney Sever ’05.

Sarah was named Academic All-Conference and was the inaugural recipient of the Get in the Game Scholarship, which is awarded to a female student-athlete pursuing a business degree.

She graduated summa cum laude in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in International Business. In 2011 she earned her Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Sports Management from Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

Faith has always played an important role in Mary’s life. Her faith-based education impacted her approach to athletics in addition to her outlook on life, love, friendship and the community. As a team, the girls would come together in prayer prior to every race — a bond Mary found very special and powerful.

Mary currently works in corporate partnerships and manages club sponsorships for the Chicago Fire Soccer Club, the Major League Soccer team. She lives in Illinois with her husband, Dave, whom she met in college. The couple married in 2014.

Sarah Lehane Walsh ’05

At SJA, Sarah played basketball and ran track and cross country. She also played one year of volleyball. She especially loved basketball and track because her sisters — Katie Lehane ’06 and Molly Lehane ’08 — were on those teams at SJA, too.

She earned 10 letters across three sports throughout high school. Her speed, endurance and leadership skills served her well as a player and as team captain. She was captain of the basketball team her senior year and captain of the track and cross country teams her junior and senior years.

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She was the recipient of the Leslie Douglas Frye ’86 Endowed Memorial Scholarship, an award which recognizes a student who demonstrates leadership, shows a strong sense of caring and responsibility, maintains high grades, and participates in at least two varsity sports at SJA.

Although she didn’t participate in sports in college, Lindsay excelled academically, graduating from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Business Education, with minors in business and economics. She was a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a National Leadership and Honors Organization.

She reminds herself that each day is like a practice and that she can either “Go hard or go home.” Competing as an athlete taught her life lessons in hard work, dedication, and most importantly, faith in God.

Lindsay lives in Rocky River and works for Hyland Software in Westlake. She enjoys running in local 5K races for fun and fitness.

Previous Athletic Hall Of Fame Award Recipients

2011
† Mary Dienes Bender
Beth Grzybowski-Litten ’99
Linda Ensign Guentert ’79
Jane Jimenez ’80
† Don Kostell
Maryann Marek

2013
Brigid Arbezink Radigan ’97
Maureen Fallon Adler ’79
Tressa Satanek Kemer ’91

2000 OHSAA State Qualifying Cross Country team:
Vanessa Georgeson ’01
Rachel Mistur ’02
Miranda Forgac Portteus ’03
Jennie Stockdale ’01
Bridgid McHugh Szlempa ’02
Sheila Peters Vance ’01
Sarah Welch ’03
† deceased