

## 2012-13 EHS Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Kathy Buetner Davis

Kathy is a 1972 graduate of Elida High School. During her high school years, girls' sports were under the leadership of the Girls' Athletic Association. The Association was self-sustaining, paying for referees, uniforms, etc. It offered intra-mural and inter-scholastic sports. The State restricted the number of inter-scholastic sports, increasing gradually to 12 by 1972.

Kathy was a member of GAA for 3 years. She participated in 6 inter-scholastic sports: golf, basketball, softball, volleyball, tennis, and track. She participated in 5 intra-mural sports: archery, billiards, bowling, basketball and volleyball. Kathy scored an average of 21.3 points in basketball her senior year. She had the highest average in bowling, highest score in archery, and highest batting average in softball. During her sophomore year, she received the "Most Valuable Member" award. During her senior year, Kathy served as President of GAA and was presented the Tiffany Award for excellence in athletics.

After high school, Kathy played fast pitch softball at the State level. She also played in the American Cancer Society Golf Tournament, and won the Kentucky State Tournament. In 1998 she participated in the National Championship Tournament in West Palm Beach. Kathy helped start the women's basketball program at the Lima Branch of the Ohio State University in 1972.

Kathy retired in June 2011 from the Husky Refinery after a 37½ year career as a Senior Technical Trainer and Maintenance Supervisor. Kathy and her husband, Dave, reside in Elida. She has 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren.



Don Thomas

Don is a 1971 graduate of Elida High School, coming from Gomer his junior year. Despite coming to EHS without high school football experience, Don started for 2 years on both offense and defense. He led the Bulldogs to a 9-1 record and a Conference Championship his senior year. He was named 2nd Team AP All-Ohio Class AA and led the NWC in scoring with 100 points.

Along with football, Don played basketball and baseball both at Gomer and at Elida High School. By his senior year, his teams became NWC Champions in baseball, football and basketball (Co-Champions).

After high school, Don went on to attend Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, where he played varsity football and baseball for 4 years. He received Honorable Mention on the 1974 All-American Division III football team. In 1975, the baseball team he played for won the OAC Championship, the Regional Championship and played in the Division III College World Series. Don was inducted into the ONU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999.

Don retired from teaching after 30 years with Mount Vernon Schools. He was also an assistant coach for both football and baseball with Kenyon College. Don and his wife, Lee, live on a farm in rural Gambier, Ohio. They have 2 children and 4 grandchildren.

## 2012-13 EHS Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Julie Smith

Julie is a 1983 graduate of Elida High School. As an honor student and athlete, she had many outstanding accomplishments, set several school records, and earned many honors in volleyball, basketball and softball some of which include: VOLLEYBALL – Set school spike record, was the #1 blocker and passer, WBL 1<sup>st</sup> Team and Honorable Mention, Lima Area Chamber of Commerce Player-of-the-Year and District 8 All Star Team member. BASKETBALL – 943 career points (before the 3-point shot), averaged 21.4 points her senior year, led her team to the first ever (boys or girls) Elida basketball WBL Championship, District 8 All Star Team member, 3rd Team All Ohio, and top 15 in State Division AAA. SOFTBALL – Team MVP, WBL 1<sup>st</sup> Team and Player-of-the-Year, led her team to a WBL Co-Championship, Sectional Championship, District Championship and Regional Runner-up.

Julie earned a 4-year scholarship to Indiana University where she double majored in Criminal Justice and Sociology. Her Indiana University team became Big 10 Champs and took 3rd Place in the National Championship Series. She was Team Captain for 3 years, was an Academic All-American and was named 2nd Team All-American Offense.

Julie was awarded a scholarship to the University of Toledo Law School where she earned her Juris Doctorate degree. She was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1991. She has been a partner in the Barken & Neff Law Firm for 13 years. Her greatest accomplishment is her daughter, Madison.