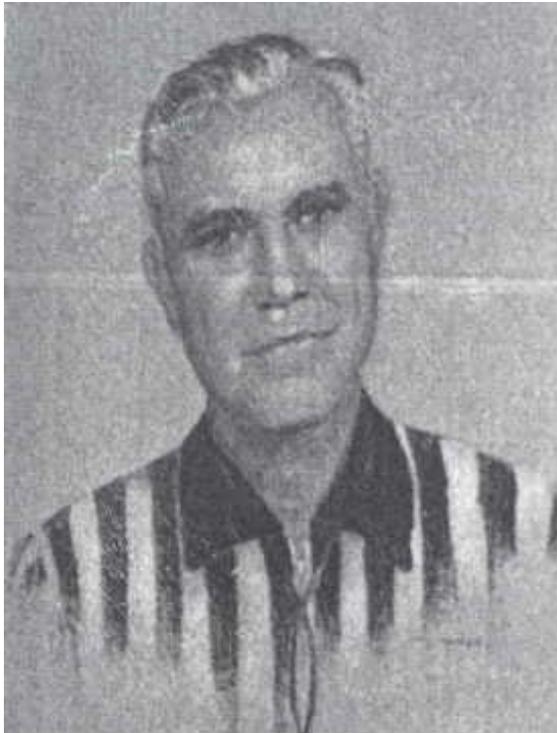


CLIFFORD "LEFTY" FAIR

Shaler

Class of 1936



Cliff, a highly respected basketball and football official, was honored as an outstanding official by the Dapper Dan club.

Cliff coached high school football 2 years and semi-pro league 5 years. He officiated high school and college basketball from 1941-73 and officiated high school and college football from 1950-76 and Division One for 17 years.

His other accomplishments as an official include working the Sugar Bowl, 4 Round Ball Tournaments, and 22 consecutive Steel Bowl Tournaments. He was the Supervisor of Officials for the Tri-State Association for 6 years and for 7 years was Commissioner of Quad A Football. Cliff also was an Official Representative from District 8 for 10 years, and Official Observer for major independents and C.I.F.O.A. for 10 years.

Cliff received the Dave Fawcett Award and was inducted into the prestigious Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1981 where he subsequently served on the executive board for 18 years.

GARY SIRIANO

Shaler Area

Class of 1976



At Shaler Area, Gary competed in football, track, and cross-country. Until recently, he held the school record in the mile and the 880, and as a member of the 2-mile relay and the 1-mile relay. Gary distinguished himself in WPIAL Championships by placing 5th in the 1-mile relay in 1974, 4th in the 2-mile relay in 1975, and 5th in the 1 mile run in 1976.

He was also a dominant runner in the PA State Championships, placing 6th in the 1-mile run, 5th in the 2-mile relay, and 8th in the 1-mile relay.

At the University of Pittsburgh, Gary served as captain of the track and cross-country teams in 1979-80, was named the Most Valuable Track and Cross Country Runner in 1979-80, and was a 4-time NCAA Championship Qualifier.

His individual championship wins include 5K and/or 1500-meter races at the Florida Relays, Dogwood Relays, Penn Relays, Colonial Relays, and NCAA Divisional Championship Meets.

Gary's postgraduate accomplishments include being a world ranked distance runner 1982-87, a US Olympic Trial Qualifier in 1984, and a 3-time USA Marathon top 15 runner. He ran the second fastest marathon by a native Pennsylvanian, was a Georgia state record holder, and was named the top distance runner by the cities of Pittsburgh and Atlanta. Gary has been running for 30 years, amassing over 75,000 lifetime miles, which include runs in all 50 states as well as 54 countries and territories around the world. His average marathon time (2 hrs. 14 min.) is one of the fastest average times in US marathoning history.

GENE BILES

Shaler

Class of 1961

Soccer, Track, Football Coach

1969 - 2002



Gene played football and ran track at Shaler High School. He played soccer for Slippery Rock University in 1965.

Gene coached football, track, and soccer for 35 years in the Shaler/Shaler Area School Districts. His 1979 soccer team won the WPIAL championship, and the 1995 team was a runner-up.

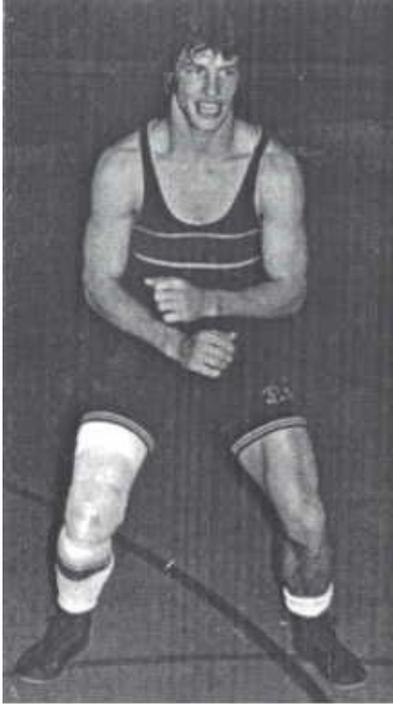
Gene has worked as a PIAA soccer official for 32 years and has officiated two state final games and numerous regional contests. He is also credited with starting the Shaler Soccer Club which has evolved into an important feeder system for the high school soccer program.

Gene is especially proud of his 38 years as an educator (34 at Shaler Area), and he earned the distinction of being a 1995 KDKA Power of Partnerships in Education Finalist.

Gene Biles is the epitome of what a coach should be: he is a teacher, he trains his athletes, he prepares his students for competition, but most of all he helps his student athletes prepare for the biggest game of all "Life after Soccer." Gene's motto is "Winners train, Losers complain."

KEITH NELLIS

Shaler Area
Class of 1973



Keith has distinguished himself as one of the top wrestlers in Shaler Area history. In 1973, his accomplishments included a WPIAL Championship at 112 pounds and a PIAA State Championship at 112 pounds.

Career record at Shaler: 59 wins, 7 losses, 0 ties.

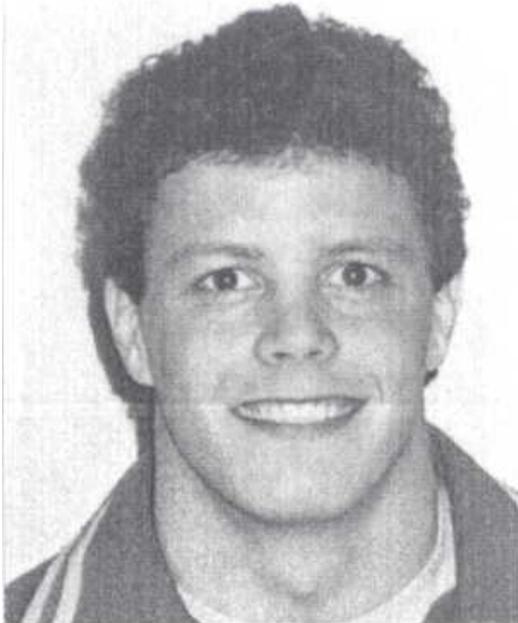
Keith also made his mark nationally by taking third place in the Junior National Greco-Roman Wrestling Championships. He was also a member of the AAU Junior Freestyle World team that traveled to Italy to compete.

He wrestled at the University of Pittsburgh in 1974 and 1975. Unfortunately, Keith had undergone two major knee surgeries, which ultimately ended his wrestling career.

Keith has stayed active as a wrestling coach at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels.

KYLE NELLIS

Shaler Area
Class of 1982



Kyle's dominating Shaler Area wrestling career is reflected by his four section championships and two WPIAL championships. In 1980, Kyle was the PIAA State Runner-up at 98 pounds. In 1982, he was crowned PIAA State Champion at 119 pounds.

He was a two-time PA State Freestyle champion and placed third in Greco-Roman and Freestyle and fourth at Junior Nationals. Kyle was awarded the PA Grand Champion Ring given by the PA Wrestling Federation in his junior year for scoring the most points. Kyle also received the Outstanding Wrestler Award at the Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic in 1982.

Academically, Kyle graduated third in his class at Shaler Area. His career record at Shaler: 127 wins, 8 losses, 2 ties.

Kyle's success continued at the University of Pittsburgh where he placed 8th nationally at 134 pounds, earning him All-American status. He was also the 1986 recipient of the Panther Award and the Male Athlete of the Year. Kyle was inducted into the Eastern Wrestling League Hall of Fame in 2000.

LAUREN HENZLER

Shaler Area
Class of 1991



Lauren's Shaler Area athletic career included four varsity letters in track, three varsity letters in swimming, serving as captain of the track and swimming teams, and receiving the Thomas S. Osso Award in 1991.

At John Carroll University, she earned two varsity letters in swimming as well as other individual and team honors.

Most recently, Lauren has gained national recognition for her prowess as an Ironman Triathlete. She competed in the 2002 Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Hawaii where she finished fourth in her age group and 49th overall for women. Lauren has won several Sprint triathlons and is a two-time winner of the Great Buckeye 1/2 Ironman in Ohio. In 2001 and 2002, Lauren was ranked as an age group All-American by USA Triathlon, and the magazine *Inside Triathlon* listed her as a top ten All-American in her age group.

Lauren was also named a 2003 Girl Scout "Women and Girls of Distinction" awardee in the sports and fitness category for an individual dedicated to physical well-being.

PAUL SCHWEIGER
Shaler Area
Fan and Community Supporter



The most appropriate title to describe Paul is "Mr. Shaler Area." His Titan pride was clearly evident in everything that he did. Paul served as the enthusiastic public address announcer for the football team for 25 years.

He also celebrated the accomplishments of generations of student athletes as advisor of the Spectrum, Shaler Area's award winning yearbook.

Most importantly, Paul's love for Shaler Area was contagious for anyone fortunate enough to spend time with him.

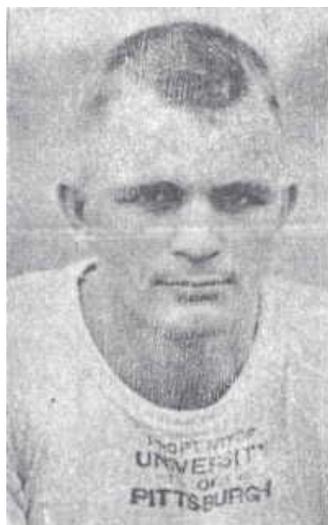
He taught thousands of young people to take pride in themselves and their school, and his passion for the blue and white left an indelible mark on all of Shaler Area's athletic programs.

Sadly, Paul passed away suddenly in October 1995.

ROBERT BESTWICK

Shaler

Class of 1948



Robert excelled at football at Shaler High School and the University of Pittsburgh.

He starred on Shaler's undefeated 1947 Class A runner-up football team where his running and passing skills played a major role in the team's success.

Bob's athletic ability and leadership qualities were recognized locally by his being named a WPIAL Class A all-star who was later invited to compete in the 1948 Dapper Dan All-Star Football Game. Robert also distinguished himself on the basketball and track teams. He was an outstanding high school athlete who earned nine varsity letters at Shaler.

At Pitt, Robert lettered for three years and set passing records during the 1950 and 1951 seasons, earning him the Dapper Dan Award for city college football. In 1951, he was named to the All-East Football Team and played in the prestigious Blue-Gray Football Game.

Robert was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers, but his professional career was cut short by the Korean War. After his discharge from the US Army in 1954, he went to work for the American Bridge Company in Ambridge. He retired in the early '80's.

SWIM TEAM 1977-1978-1979

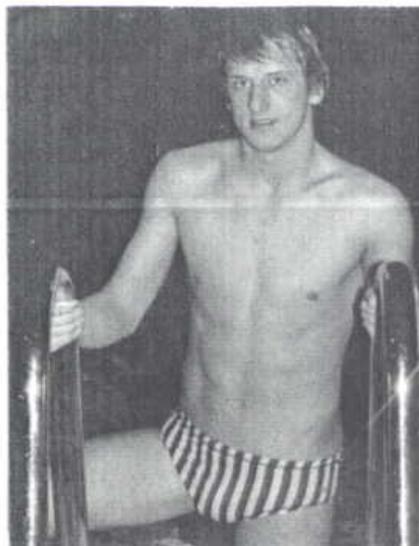
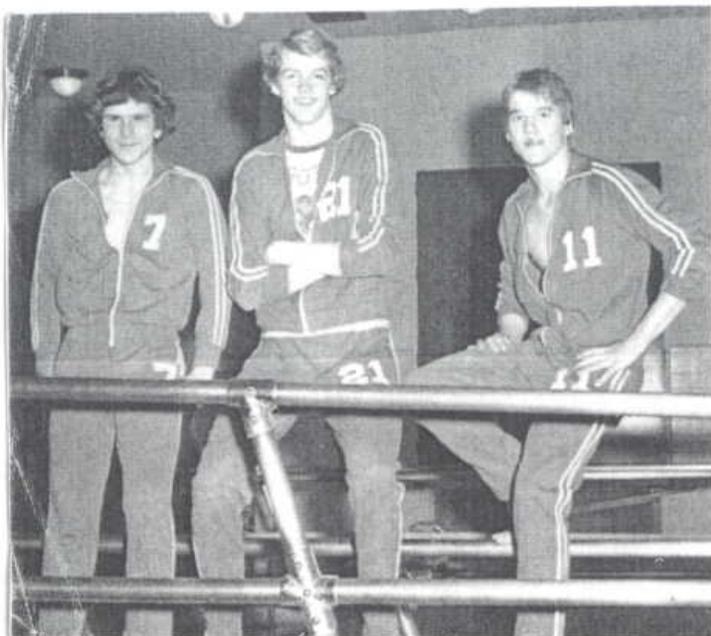
Interscholastic swimming began in Shaler in 1969 under Coach Don Geyer and reached a pinnacle in the late 1970's with three consecutive P.I.A.A. State championships. After a very successful dual meet season in **1977**, the team proceeded to win both the W.P.I.A.L. and P.I.A.A. titles. The state champions were led by High School All-American Jeff Trew and fellow seniors Rob Hanlon and Bob Hammill. Jeff had already set two state records (200 and 500 freestyle). Rob Hanlon placed second in those same two events. After two outstanding performances by Pat Bria (5th in the 100 breaststroke) and Frank Riott (3rd in the 1 meter diving), the state title was clinched in the final event as Rick Carter, Bill Conrad, Rob Hanlon, and Jeff Trew placed 3rd in the 400 freestyle relay. Senior Bob Hammill, junior Will McMarlin, and sophomores Dave Wiefeling and Pat Bria had contributed to Shaler's title in the earlier medley relay.

The **1978** team continued its earlier success led by team captains and individual state champions Rick Carter (500 freestyle) and Frank Riott (1 meter diving). This team also claimed W.P.I.A.L. and State championships. The 1978 meet started on a very positive note when the medley relay team of Bill Conrad, Pat Bria, Dave Wiefeling, and Rick Carter placed third. While Rick Carter continued to dominate the sprinting events, freshmen Greg Murphy scored in both distance events. Juniors Bill Conrad (backstroke) and Pat Bria (breaststroke) not only excelled in their specialties, but also showed their versatility by placing in the individual medley. Chuck Riott helped secure the team's second state championship with a strong finish in the 100-yard breaststroke. Throughout the meet, team captain Andy Bielski provided his enthusiastic support and the awareness that his mastery of all the strokes would allow him to replace any of his teammates in relays, if necessary.

As the Shaler team set out to win its third state championship in **1979**, a quality team from Moon appeared to stand in its way. Shaler was the runner-up to Moon in the W.P.I.A.L. Championships. This disappointment proved to be the necessary motivation for the state meet as Shaler surprised Moon and claimed its third consecutive state title. The medley relay team of Bill Conrad, Pat Bria, Dave Wiefeling, and Chuck Riott placed second and qualified for All-American status. Sophomore Greg Murphy continued to score in the distance events, achieving third and fourth place finishes. Bill Conrad joined the ranks of Shaler's individual state championships by dominating the individual medley in an All-American time and placing second in the 100-yard backstroke. The pressure continued to mount as both Shaler and Moon charged toward a state title. The ever-dependable Pat Bria improved Shaler's chances by placing second in the 100-yard breaststroke and just missing another individual state title. Chuck Riott, Dave Wiefeling, Greg Murphy, and Steve Bria claimed Shaler's third consecutive P.I.A.A. team title by placing 7th in the freestyle relay. This amazing three-year achievement was made possible only because each team member refused to give up the team's claim to Pennsylvania swimming supremacy.



*Tri-Captains
Andy Bielski, Rick Carter, Frank Riott*



Jeff Trew, one of the topranked high school swimmers in the nation.

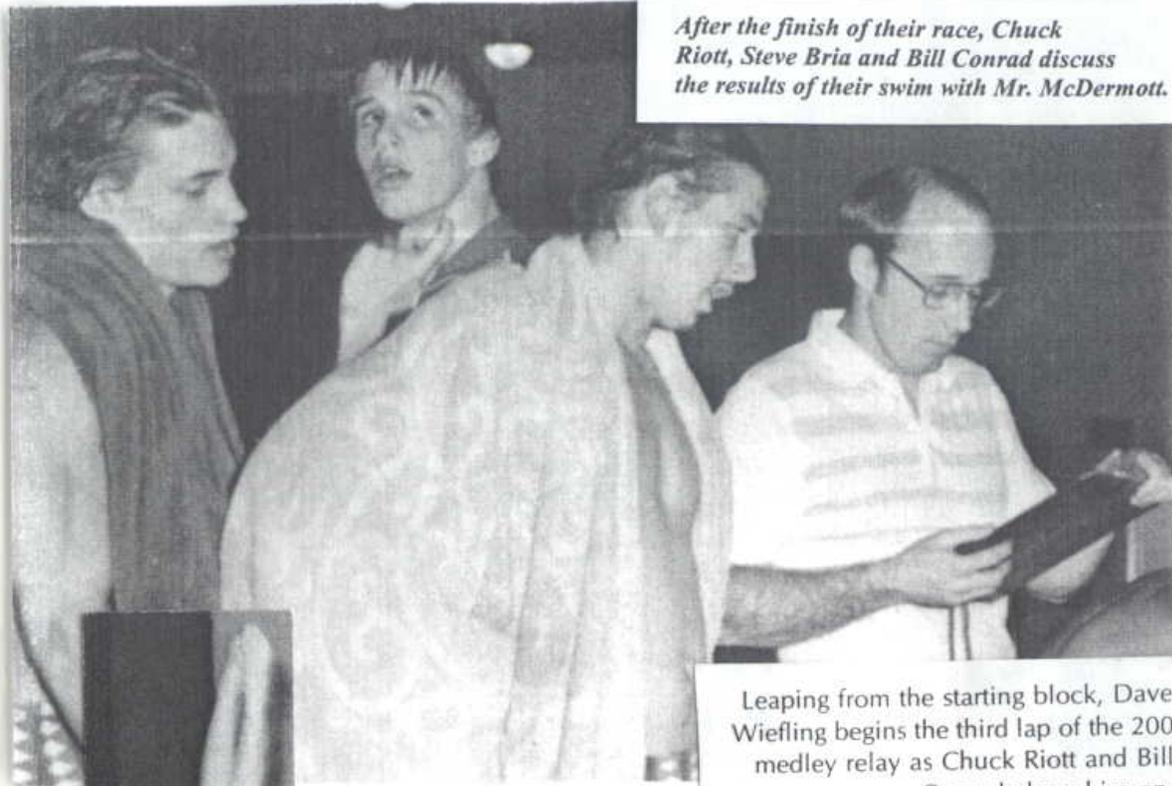


Every tenth of a second counts as Pat Bria utilizes a flying start to gain a slim lead for the medley relay team.



1978 Boy's Swim Team

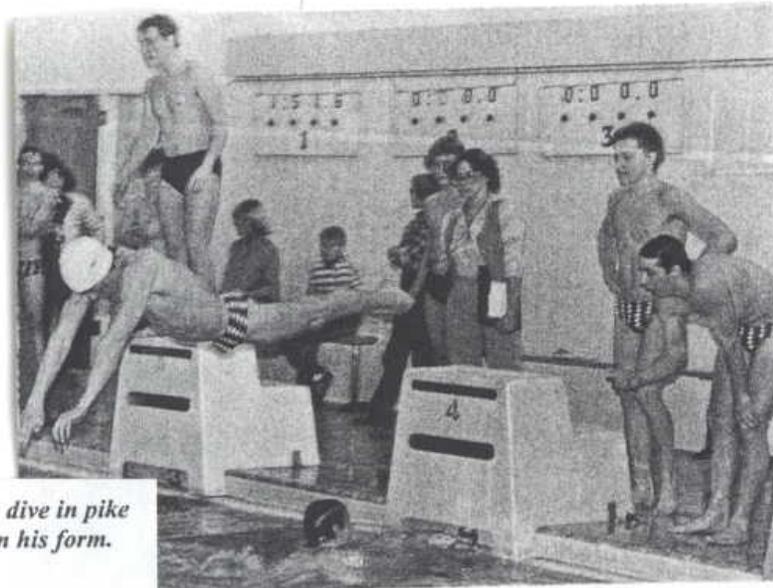
After the finish of their race, Chuck Riott, Steve Bria and Bill Conrad discuss the results of their swim with Mr. McDermott.



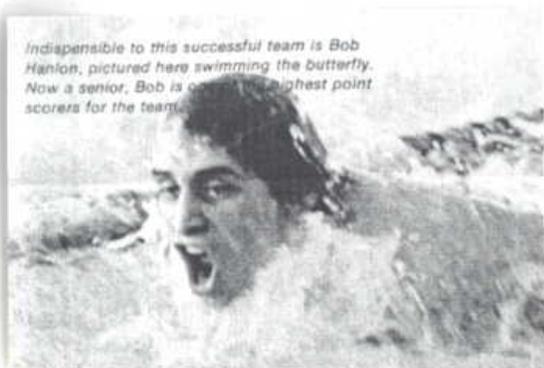
Leaping from the starting block, Dave Wiefeling begins the third lap of the 200 medley relay as Chuck Riott and Bill Conrad cheer him on.



Frank Riott completes a back dive in pike position showing perfection in his form.



Indispensable to this successful team is Bob Hanlon, pictured here swimming the butterfly. Now a senior, Bob is one of the highest point scorers for the team.



Flying into a first place finish, Bob Hamill displays the exact timing and skillful coordination that this difficult stroke demands.