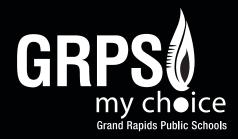
OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL





Superintendent

Leadriane Roby, Ph.D.

2025 Board of Education Members

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Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Director Marcus Harris



ELITE ATHLETIC HONORS HALL OF FAME RECOGNITION

CLASS OF 2025 INDUCTEES

Friday, February 7, 2025 Reception 5:00-6:30 pm Ottawa Hills Gymnasium

- · Welcome, introductions, acknowledgments and overview of the evening
- Brief history of Ottawa Hills High School
- District Official's Remarks
- Hall of Fame Committee
- Establishing Ottawa Hills High School Elite Athletic Honors
 - Notable Alumni
 - Hall of Fame
- Acknowledgment of Hall of Fame Inductees
- Hall of Fame Certificate Presentations
- Closing Remarks
- End of Program

2025 Hall of Fame Committee Members Melvin Atkins Sr Janelle Carter Larry Donston Marcus Harris Donna Hathaway Brodie Larson Pat Smith Johnny Walker

The Hall of Fame Committee would like to extend a special Thank You to Mrs. Bailey, Dr. Carter-McCullough, Mrs. Wyles and the GRPS Communications Department for all their hard work in putting this program booklet together.

OTTAWA HILLS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME WELCOME

On behalf of the Ottawa Hills Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, it is an honor to welcome all of you to Ottawa Hills High School for this inspiring, empowering and memorable occasion.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 members on their induction to the OHHS Athletic Hall of Fame. This is a great honor and distinguished recognition. We want to thank all the inductees for their valuable contributions to the Ottawa Hills athletic programs.

The Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2020. The OHHS Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its first class in February 2020 with 25 inductees. The purpose of the OHHS Athletic Hall of Fame is to recognize former scholar-athletes, alumni, coaches, teams and/or individuals for outstanding athletic achievement, professional accomplishments and/or exemplary community contributions to Ottawa Hills High School athletics. We will continue to induct great athletes, coaches, teams, and pillars of our athletic community moving forward.

The distinguished history of athletics at Ottawa Hills High School is rich in academic success and scholarship along with notable competitive athletic achievements of remarkable scholar-athletes, coaches, and teams. We are honored to recognize some of the greatest alumni to represent and wear the orange and black at Ottawa Hills High School.

We would like to thank our Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools and Executive Staff, and you in advance for your support and we hope you continue to join us each time as we continue to honor our Hall of Fame inductees on a routine and regular basis.

Sincerely,

OHHS Hall of Fame Committee 2025



CHARLES BROWN ATHLETIC TRAINER

Charles Brown, a distinguished member of the 2025 Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame, has made significant contributions to athletics at "The Big O." His journey began as a Physical Education teacher and Assistant Football Coach, profoundly shaped by his own experience. Charles overcome a severe ankle injury during his college football days. Inspired by his recovery, Brown pursued a Master's degree with an emphasis on Sports Medicine, ultimately becoming a proud member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

His commitment to athlete welfare led him to serve as Ottawa Hills' first Athletic Trainer for 20 years. Charles advocated for the inclusion of Athletic Trainers in high schools to ensure that student-athletes received the comprehensive care. As a member of the steering committee, Brown worked with athletes across the state at various events, fostering a culture of health and safety in sports. His 30 years of dedication within the Grand Rapids Public School District not only exemplified his commitment but also proudly represented the bold orange and black school colors.

Grateful for the support of parents, coaches, and administrators, Brown highlights the invaluable mentorship of Dr. John Edleman, who guided him throughout his Sports Medicine career. This mentorship taught him to treat the whole person, emphasizing the overall well-being of athletes rather than focusing solely on injuries.

Ultimately, Charles Brown aspires to transcend the roles of teacher, coach, and athletic trainer. His mission is to inspire individuals to reach their full potential in life, making a lasting impact on countless lives. His legacy is a testament to dedication, compassion, and the transformative power of sports.

COLIN CHRISTOPHER BASKETBALL FOOTBALL TRACK & FIELD



Colin Christopher, a remarkable athlete and dedicated community leader, graduated from Ottawa Hills High School in 1999, leaving an indelible mark on the sports landscape. A standout in three sports, Colin excelled in football, basketball, and track, showcasing his exceptional athleticism and versatility.

Colin's athletic journey began in 1995 as a freshman on the Ottawa Hills varsity football team. He quickly established himself as a dominant linebacker, leading the City League in tackles for three consecutive years. His prowess on the gridiron earned him prestigious honors, including All-City, All-Area, All-State, and Dream Team recognition. Collins solidified his forceful reputation.

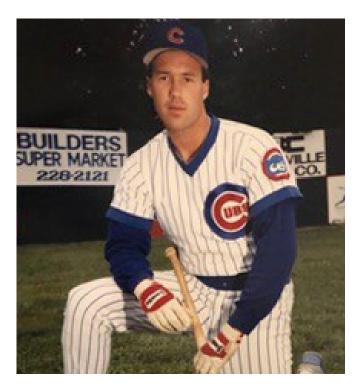
In addition to football, Colin proudly represented his school as a member of the 1996-97 State Basketball Team during his sophomore year. His talents extended to track and field, where he achieved All-State honors and was a two-time All-City Honoree in shot put and discus. His record-breaking throw in the discus not only shattered the City League record but also set a new school record—both of which remain unbroken to this day.

Colin's athletic excellence earned him a full scholarship to Division I Indiana University, where he excelled on the offensive line. As a Hoosier two-way player, he demonstrated remarkable adaptability by transitioning to the defensive line, becoming a starter and making significant contributions to the team's success in the Big Ten Conference. Graduating in 2003, he continued his pursuit of excellence at the University of Massachusetts (UMass), where he quickly emerged as one of the school's most dominant defensive linemen. Colin set the bench press record and led the team with 64 tackles, earning Atlantic 10 (A10) All-Conference Honors. He helped UMass secure an impressive 10-2 record in the A10 Conference.

Following a stint with his hometown arena football team, the Grand Rapids Rampage, Colin returned to his roots as the Varsity Defensive Coordinator at Ottawa Hills for nine years. His coaching career also included a successful tenure at East Kentwood, where he helped lead the team to the MHSAA Class A state semifinals in 2014. Additionally, he held coaching positions at Davenport University and Grand Rapids Christian. Notably, as a Varsity Assistant Coach, he helped guide Kelloggsville's Varsity Girls Basketball team to their first conference championship since 1976.

Beyond his athletic and coaching achievements, Colin Christopher is deeply committed to education and community service. Currently, he serves as the Dean of Students and Athletic Director for Waverly Community Schools in Lansing, MI. Colin continues to inspire youth and advocate for the revival of youth football in inner-city communities. Through his efforts, he has secured scholarships for families in need, further illuminating his dedication to uplifting his community and nurturing the next generation of athletes.

KEVIN "GUBBY" DALSON BASEBALL BASKETBALL



Kevin "Gubby" Dalson's athletic prowess shone brightly throughout his remarkable two-sport career, dominating in both baseball and basketball and catching the eyes of professional scouts from the moment he stepped onto the diamond. A proud 1985 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, Kevin made history as likely the only freshman to earn a spot on the varsity baseball team under Coach Arpin. With a powerful arm, lightning-fast bat speed, and an impressive ability to steal bases, he quickly established himself as a standout player.

Over seven athletic seasons—three in basketball and four in baseball—Kevin earned three varsity letters, received three All-City Selections, was twice named to the All-Region Team, and was honored as an All-State First Team. His crowning achievement came when he was selected for the MHSAA's prestigious "Dream Team," an elite squad of just 18 players statewide. He capped this honor with an MVP performance in the Michigan vs. Illinois all-star game.

Kevin's high school baseball statistics were nothing short of stellar, boasting a .438 batting average, an outstanding .962 fielding percentage, 81 stolen bases, and five home runs—four of which came during his senior year. His impressive performance earned him a Division I Scholarship to Michigan State University, where he continued to excel as the starting shortstop for all four years.

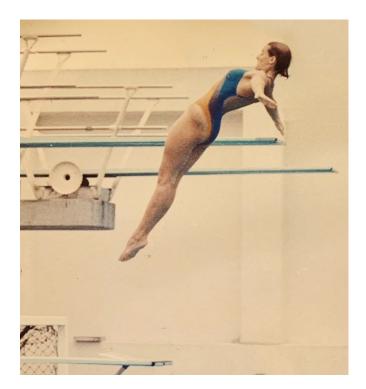
From 1986 to 1989, Kevin became the program's all-time leader in hits, doubles, runs, and stolen bases. He continues to hold a spot among the top in career runs scored with 143. In 1988, he was named to the Big Ten All-Tournament Team. Kevin played a key role in a record-breaking season for the Spartans. His collegiate achievements were further recognized when he earned the prestigious "Golden Spikes Award."

Kevin's journey took a significant turn when he was selected by the Chicago Cubs in the 26th round of the 1989 MLB June Amateur Draft. As a 5-foot-9, 165-pound infielder and left-handed batter, he made his professional debut with the Wytheville Cubs in the Appalachian League. There, he appeared in 56 games, showcasing his skills with seven doubles, 11 RBIs, and six stolen bases.

Kevin Dalson's accomplishments in baseball and basketball, combined with his athletic versatility, underscore a legacy of excellence and dedication that continues to inspire.



MARJORIE "MARGE" DEIGERT DEIGERT CHEERLEADING GOLF GYMNASTICS SWIMMING & DIVING



Over her high school career, Marjorie Deigert participated in 12 athletic seasons, excelling in diving and golf, each for four years. She earned a total of eight varsity letters—four in diving and four in golf. Marge set school records for both six and twelve dives, with her record for twelve dives still standing strong more than 40 years later. She was an All-City Diver throughout her four years, winning the City Championship in 1984 and finishing second in both 1983 and 1982.

During her senior year, Marge achieved All-American Honorable Mention Honors and placed second at Regionals, finishing behind Julie Farrell, who later earned an Olympic Bronze Medal. She was the only athlete on the swim team to qualify for the State Meet in her junior and senior years. Additionally, Marge served as team captain and was awarded MVP Honors for the swim and dive program. Her exceptional performance in diving earned her an athletic scholarship to Northern Illinois University.

In golf, Marge was an All-City Player all four years, serving as team captain and the top player on her team.

At Northern Illinois University, Marge was an All-Conference diver and the top diver for NIU in the Mid-American Conference. She was also the only female athlete at NIU to qualify for the Mid-American Conference Championships. After 1.5 years, she transferred to UC Berkeley, where she competed on the swim and dive team for three years. During her time at Berkeley, the team achieved a second-place finish at the NCAA Championships one year.

Following her diving career at Berkeley, Marge returned to golf and competed on the amateur circuit for three years, qualifying twice for the prestigious Women's Public Links Championship. She maintained a 5 handicap for several years before playing professionally for one season on the Women's Mini Tour in California.

After graduating from UC Berkeley, Marge began her career at Apple, where she developed an innovative multimedia software project—an interactive golf magazine—that won four national awards and was featured in Forbes.

After the birth of her daughter, Marge founded a school in Hawaii and later earned a Master's degree in Education from Harvard University. Upon completing her studies, she sold her school and began working in international education. Her first position was in Thailand at the International School of Bangkok, where she taught Physical Education and coached both the men's and women's golf teams. She then moved to Switzerland to head the IT department at an international private school in Geneva.

Currently, Marjorie Deigert works as a private math tutor and manages a portfolio of 10 Airbnb properties, continuing her legacy of excellence and versatility across multiple fields.



MARTHA DEVRIES SOFTBALL SWIM & DIVING VOLLEYBALL



Martha DeVries, a 1982 graduate of Ottawa Hills is a remarkable example of athletic excellence. She earned an impressive total of 11 varsity letters across three sports: swimming, volleyball, and softball. In 1982, she was honored by the varsity coaches as the Senior Female Athlete of the Year.

Martha excelled in swimming. She earned four varsity letters and medaled multiple times in City League Meets, both individually and relay team member. Her achievements in swimming included All-City Honors, as well Team Captain and Team MVP.

In volleyball, Martha earned three varsity letters and played a pivotal role on the 1981 and 1982 City Championship Teams. She was recognized as an All-City Selection, Team Captain, and MVP of her volleyball team.

After high school, Martha received a scholarship from Grand Rapids Junior College (now Grand Rapids Community College) to compete in volleyball and softball, where she played for two years. She later earned an Associates Degree in Business from GRJC.

Martha's dedication and leadership across multiple sports, combined with her academic achievements, highlight her as a standout athlete and role model in her community.



JOHN "TONY" DOW BASEBALL BASKETBALL GOLF



John Dow was not just an athlete—he was a force of nature whose career leaves an indelible mark spanned in baseball, basketball, and golf. A proud graduate of Ottawa Hills High School in 1984, Tony emerged as a standout star, excelling in every sport he pursued.

Tony's athletic journey began on the baseball diamond, where he captivated fans and scouts alike. Over three varsity seasons, he earned All-City and All-Area Honors each year. His unparalleled talent culminated in his selection as an All-State player during his senior year.

In basketball, Tony exhibited agility and skill, established himself as a formidable competitor. His tenacity and athleticism solidified his reputation as a multi-talented athlete. On the golf course, his precision and strategic play distinguished him from his peers.

Tony's talents earned him a scholarship to Division I Quinnipiac College (now Quinnipiac University). He quickly become a four-year starter in center field. His relentless work ethic and commitment to excellence earned him the coveted Most Improved Player Award in 1986, followed by All-NECC and All-New England Honors. His collegiate career peaked when he played in the All-New England All-Star Game at Fenway Park. The New England All-Star Game weaved his name into baseball history at one of the sport's most iconic venues.

Tony's talent and work ethic caught the attention of professional scouts, earning him an invitation to a free-agent tryout with the New York Yankees at the legendary Yankee Stadium. This opportunity was a testament to his potential and the respect he commanded in the world of baseball.

In every sport John Dow pursued, he demonstrated not just talent but sheer dominance, combining athleticism, skill, and an unyielding competitive spirit. His legacy as a three-sport athlete is one of inspiration, illustrated with dedication, passion, and greatness is within reach. Whether on the diamond, the court, or the greens, Anthony's journey is a thrilling saga of triumph that resonates with aspiring athletes everywhere.



DR. JOHN EDLEMAN TEAM DOCTOR

Dr. John Edleman is a pillar of support and dedication for Ottawa Hills High School, where he significantly impacted the lives of student-athletes for over three decades. His journey began in 1968 when he was encouraged by a patient to provide physical exams for students and bus drivers at Grand Rapids Public Schools. This opportunity ignited his commitment to the school, establishing a lasting relationship that would shape the lives of many.

From 1968 to 2000, Dr. Edleman generously donated his time at Ottawa Hills, offering pre-participation exams and injury evaluations for athletes in sports such as football, basketball, baseball, and track. He became a familiar face at athletic events, often accompanied by his family, creating a supportive atmosphere for athletes and their families. His three children—Mari (83), Heidi (84) and John Jr (86)—all Ottawa Hills graduates, were active in sports. Dr. Edleman, along with his wife Nancy, were enthusiastic supporters. They were often seen in their motorhome, providing comfort and community for those attending matches and events.

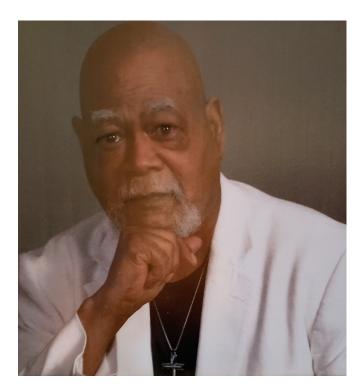
Dr. Edleman formed close relationships with coaches, including basketball coach Bob Hendrickson and football coach Jerry Dutcher. He saw his role as essential to safeguarding the physical and mental health of student-athletes, using sports physicals to connect throughout their high school journeys.

In the late 1970s, he partnered with athletic trainer Charles Brown, to form a dynamic team that provided comprehensive care to students. Whether on the sidelines during football games or basketball games, they ensured athletes received not only medical attention but also emotional support, helping students navigate their challenges both on and off the field.

Dr. Edleman's commitment extended beyond medical care. He was always available to listen to students and provide guidance. He supported the athletic programs including funding new equipment for the weight and training rooms, demonstrating his dedication to enhancing the student experience at Ottawa Hills. His legacy is one of compassion and service, with many students, faculty, and administrators becoming lifelong friends and patients. Dr. Edleman's unwavering support and dedication to Ottawa Hills High School has left an indelible mark, inspiring generations of student-athletes and fostering a sense of community that continues to thrive.



WILLIAM "BILL" GOODSON BASKETBALL FOOTBALL TRACK & FIELD



William Goodson is a celebrated three-sport athlete whose remarkable talents and tenacity have earned him a well-deserved place in the Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame. A proud graduate of the Class of 1966, Bill's athletic prowess in football, basketball, and track & field not only made him a standout during his high school years but also left an indelible mark on the City League.

On the football field, Bill was a dynamic offensive end and a tenacious linebacker, showcasing his versatility and athleticism while earning All-City honors on both sides of the ball. In basketball, he shined as the starting guard on a highly ranked team that achieved an impressive 16-0 record, culminating in a City Championship victory. Bill's senior year saw him average a double-double of 18 points and 10 assists per game, demonstrating not only his scoring ability but also his vision and playmaking skills.

Bill reached new heights in track and field, making history by clearing an astounding 6 feet, 4 inches in the high jump during his sophomore year. This remarkable achievement set both the school and Grand Rapids City League records, showcasing his exceptional agility and jumping ability. His performance earned him All-City Honors and the title of Regional Champion, securing his qualification for state-level competition. This feat solidified his status as one of the top high school athletes in the region."

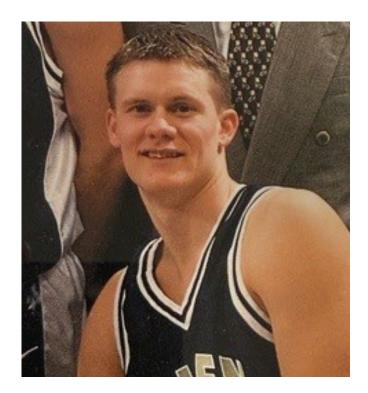
After graduating from Ottawa Hills, Bill continued his education and basketball career at Davenport College. Beyond his athletic achievements, He is a proud father of two children and has dedicated his professional life to public service. Bill retired as a Captain after 20 years at Ionia State Prison and also established himself as a successful businessman. He owns the Horseshoe establishment located at the gateway to downtown Grand Rapids.

William Goodson's remarkable journey as a three-sport athlete, combined with his contributions to the community embodies the spirit of excellence and dedication that the Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame seeks to honor. Bill's Legacy as both a dominant force in athletics and respected community leader continues to inspire future generations.

1995

ALAN "AL" GORTMAKER BASEBALL

BASKETBALL GOLF SOCCER



Alan Gortmaker, a distinguished athlete at Ottawa Hills, made significant contributions across multiple sports during his high school and collegiate careers. An Ottawa Hills High School graduate, Al excelled in basketball, soccer, golf, and baseball from 1992 to 1995. Under the guidance of Hall of Fame Coach Jim Eaddy, the basketball team reached remarkable heights, achieving a national ranking of 19th and a state ranking of 1st during the 1994 season. The following year, Al led his team to an undefeated City League record of 12-0 and a 26-game winning streak, culminating in a regional victory over Holland, avenging the previous year's loss.

In soccer, AI tied the school record with 29 goals in his senior season, earning AII-City and AII-Regional honors. AI also made his mark in baseball, leading the City League in extra-base hits and home runs, earning AII-City, AII-Region, and AII-State Honorable Mention accolades. His exceptional performance earned him recognition as one of four recipients of the Athlete of the Year award in 1995.

Continuing his athletic journey, Al attended Cornerstone University, where he played under the legendary Coach Kim Elders. In his freshman year, he showcased his versatility by participating in basketball, soccer, and golf. Despite a quad injury that sidelined him for part of the basketball season, Al returned to help lead the team to a remarkable 37-3 record in 1999. He culminated in a National Championship victory against Bethel College. His performance in the championship game was notable, contributing 23 points and going a perfect 11 for 11 from the free-throw line. The end of his collegiate career, Al had amassed 1,395 points, ranking 27th all-time at Cornerstone. He received honors including First Team All-WHAC, All-American Honorable Mention, and All-Tournament Team in the national tournament.

Alan Gortmaker is married to Bethany and is the proud father of four children: Aiden, Gracie, Lily, and Myla. His legacy as a multi-sport athlete is honored through his induction into the Ottawa Hills Athletic Hall of Fame, a testament to his dedication, skill, and sportsmanship.





ANDRE HARRIS BASKETBALL

Andre Harris, a 1983 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, emerged as a standout athlete, leading his team to become a top contender in the city. As a multiple varsity letter winner, he was recognized for his exceptional basketball talent both locally and across the state. Harris earned All-City, All-Area, and All-State honors, captivating fans with his dynamic performances on the court.

Standing at 6'7," he was a showstopper, known for his defensive prowess and ability to block shots into the stands, earning the adoration of spectators who delighted in his finesse, athleticism and power. Often referred to as a "gentle giant," Harris athleticism and engaging style of play brought crowds to their feet, eliciting "ooohs and ahhs" with every move.

His remarkable skills earned him a full scholarship to play Division I basketball in the Big Ten Conference at Indiana University, where he became the first junior college player accepted by the legendary Coach Bobby Knight. Knight praised Harris in a 1985 interview, calling him "the single most athletic player he ever recruited." As a key player for the Hoosiers, Harris led the team in rebounding and ranked second in scoring. The Hoosiers held the 2nd spot in the Big Ten Conference and 16th spot in the Final AP Poll. As a result, they earned a 3 seed in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament in the East Region. His recognition by Sports Illustrated as the all-time best Hoosier player to wear the number 34 jersey cements his legacy.

After a successful stint at Indiana, Harris transferred to Austin Peay State University, where he continued to excel, averaging nearly a double-double in points and rebounds. Following a fourth-place finish in the OVC regular season standings, Austin Peay won the OVC Tournament, earning an automatic bid to the Division I NCAA Tournament. Harris led his Cinderella team to a thrilling opening-round upset of 3 seed Illinois, 68–67. This victory marked only the third time a 14 seed defeated a 3 seed in the opening round since the NCAA tournament's expansion. Austin Peay delivered another strong performance in the next round, however the team fell to 6 seed and eventual Final Four participant Providence, 90–87, in overtime. Harris's team concluded the season with a 20–12 record.

As a standout player for the Governors, Harris earned recognition as a member of the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) All-Tournament Team and the Second Team All-OVC. At Austin Peay, he ranked in the Top 20 for both blocks and points per game, finishing 11th overall in total points in a single season, while shooting just under 50% from the field. Andre Harris' legacy as an elite athlete is unparalleled, reflecting the unwavering love and support of his mother, Sandra Thomas, who believed in his dreams every step of the way.

RAUSHEDA HICKMAN-KIRK BASKETBALL TRACK & FIELD VOLLEYBALL



Rausheda Hickman-Kirk, a 1991 graduate of Ottawa Hill High School, excelled in three sports—volleyball, basketball, and track & field—earning an impressive eight varsity letters. She is most celebrated as a true powerhouse in girls' basketball. During her time at "The Big 0," Rausheda was known for her remarkable wingspan and height allowed her to dominate the paint and contribute significantly to her team's success.

Rausheda was named to the Grand Rapids City League All-Conference Team all four years. She received All-Area Team Honors three times and selected for the Advance All-State Team during her junior and senior seasons. Additionally, the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM) recognized her as one of the Class A Top 10 players.

Rausheda played a pivotal role as a starter for the 1989 MHSAA Class A State Championship team. The only girls' basketball team from Grand Rapids Public Schools to achieve this prestigious title. Her talent extended to the AAU circuit, where she starred with the Kazoo Blues, competing internationally in the USSR for the World Cup. The international team brought home the World Cup Gold Championship in 1988.

High school and AAU success earned Rausheda a full scholarship to play women's basketball at Oregon State University. After a year, she transferred to Jackson State University, a Division I HBCU powerhouse in the SWAC Conference, where she continued her basketball career.

Off the court, Rausheda is married to Leo Kirk, and together they have five children and nine grandchildren. She cherishes her role as a wife and mother. Above all else, dedicating this Hall of Fame Honor to the memory of her mother, Ruby Williams.

Rausheda Hickman-Kirk's legacy as a dominant center and her contributions to women's basketball continues to inspire future generations of athletes.



RONELLA "RONI" McGREGORY

BASKETBALL SOFTBALL TRACK & FIELD VOLLEYBALL



Ronella McGregory, a distinguished graduate of Ottawa Hills High School in 1989, exemplifies the spirit of a true studentathlete. Throughout her high school years, Roni was a remarkable four-sport athlete, earning the title of Ottawa Hills High School 1989 Athlete of the Year. She excelled in volleyball, basketball, softball, and track & field, garnering varsity letters in each sport.

As a two-year starter in Volleyball, Roni led her team to two City League Championships and one District Championship. She earned recognition on both the All-City and All-Area Teams. In track & field, Roni achieved All-City and All-Area Honors, with her 4 x 100 relay team placing fifth in the 1988 MHSAA.

Roni's basketball prowess was equally impressive; she was a three-year starter who helped her team secure four City League Championships, four District Championships, three Regional Titles, and individual recognition on the All-City team. Her exceptional athletic talent earned her a full-ride scholarship to Oakland University to continue her pursuit as an outstanding student-athlete.

At Oakland University, Roni continued to shine as a student-athlete, serving as a two-year starter on the basketball team contributing to the GLIAC Championship win in 1988 and the NCAA Division II Final Four 1989. Her contributions were recognized when she became the first recipient of the Sidney Fink Award for her outstanding student relationships. Roni's leadership extended beyond the court as she became the first student-athlete named to the Title IX Committee. Roni worked alongside school administrators to advocate for the growth of women's sports at Oakland University. In recognition of her outstanding achievements, Roni was inducted into the Oakland University Hall of Honors in 2016.

Ronella Hickman -Kirk's journey reflects a commitment to excellence, leadership, and the advancement of women's athletics. Roni is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" MENDELS BASEBALL BASKETBALL FOOTBALL



During Christopher's high school years at Ottawa Hills, Chris Mendels showcased unparalleled athletic prowess by earning a remarkable eight varsity letters. His versatility is truly commendable, excelling in golf, football, basketball, and baseball. Christ's commitment to excellence is underscored by his impressive achievements, including All-City Honors in football twice, basketball once, and baseball twice. Chris also participated in two Jon Boss All-Star games, further solidifying his reputation as a regional standout.

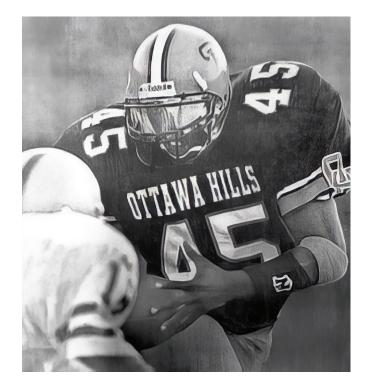
Chris the Senior Male Athlete of the Year for the Class of 1983, Chris left a lasting legacy at Ottawa Hills High School. His athletic journey continued at the collegiate level, where he made significant contributions to Hope College's football and baseball programs. A two-year starting quarterback, Chris demonstrated outstanding leadership and skill. He earned 2nd Team All-MIAA Honors as a junior, 1st Team Honors as a senior, and the title of MIAA Offensive MVP. One of his most notable achievements was leading Hope College to its first NCAA playoff appearance in 1986, a testament to his exceptional abilities and strategic acumen on the field.

Beyond athletics, Chris has dedicated 30 years of his life to teaching special education, demonstrating the same passion and commitment that marked his athletic career. Since his retirement in 2017. Chris transitioned to a career in real estate, contributing to the community as a valuable member of Greenridge Realty in Grand Haven, Michigan.

Christopher Mendels has been happily married to his best friend, Melinda, for 38 years. Their family includes daughter and son-in-law Aly and Ethan Meyer and their children Marlowe, Macklin, and Merrick, as well as their son and daughter-in-law Nicholas and Morgan Mendels.



LYNNFORD JAMES "LJ" PARKER BASKETBALL FOOTBALL TRACK & FIELD



Lynnford James Parker III is a remarkable individual whose achievements span both athletics and public service. A 1999 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, he was an outstanding three-sport athlete, excelling in football, basketball, and track & field, earning seven varsity letters. His all-star domination was evident on the hardwood and on the field, as he garnered numerous accolades.

In football, LJ was a standout star, named to the All-City Team three times and earning All-Area and All-State First Team Honors. His electrifying performances captured the attention of Division I coaches throughout the region. During his senior year, he scored an impressive 11 touchdowns, averaged a staggering 29.5 yards per punt return, and racked up over 30 yards per reception as a dynamic tight end. With blazing speed, LJ ran the 40-yard dash in just 4.2 seconds, showcasing his versatility and athleticism. It was no surprise he drew recruitment interest in both basketball and football. LJ proved he was a force to be reckoned with on every field and court he stepped onto.

LJ was also a proud member of the 1997 State Championship Basketball Team. LJ finished his basketball career with All-City and All-Area Honors. In track, he was a regional champion and a state qualifier, competing in the 100 meters, long jump, and member of 400-relay team. LJ earned All-City and All-Area Honors.

Following high school, LJ earned a full-ride scholarship to Indiana University. He played wide receiver, and continued his athletic journey at the Division I Level.

LJ is married to Amanda, and together they have raised four children: Brilynn, Idus, Ison, and Isaiah. Currently, he serves as a police officer with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, where he has been a decorated officer for over 10 years. In addition to his law enforcement career, LJ has coached at the middle, high school, and college levels. He is an entrepreneur who owns Brotherz Fitness and Apparel LLC. His dedication to both athletics and community service exemplifies the spirit of a true multi-sport athlete.

JESSIE POWELL-JONES BASKETBALL TRACK & FIELD



Jessie Powell-Jones is a proud graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, Class of 1988 and dedicated two-sport athlete. She excelled in basketball, and track & field, earning eight Varsity letters. During her basketball career, Jessie contributed to four City and District Championships and three Regional Championships. She established herself as a vital team player under Hall of Fame Coach Camilla Carter. Jessie was known as a defensive juggernaut, she often took on the challenge of guarding the opposing team's top scorer. She earned All-City, All-Area, and Honorable Mention. In track, Jessie achieved All-City and Class A All-State recognition as a member of the 4x100 relay team. Her explosive speed and quickness played a key role in her team's success.

With several scholarship offers, Jessie accepted a full-ride scholarship to Oakland University, where she continued her basketball career with the Pioneers while majoring in Marketing. Her time on the court solidified her reputation as a lockdown defender, consistently neutralizing the offensive threats posed by opposing teams. Under the guidance of Coach Bob Taylor, Jessie was integral to the team's success, contributing to the GLIAC Championship win in 1988 and the NCAA Division II Final Four appearance in 1989. She was recognized as a two-time member of the GLIAC All-Defensive Team in 1991 and 1992.

Jessie earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and later obtained a Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. In 2006, she was ordained as a minister at Brown Hutcherson Ministries, where she has served faithfully for over 25 years. Jessie is also an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, serving as Chaplin of the Theta Chi Omega Chapter. Additionally, she volunteers her expertise as a board member for several organizations, including YWCA West Central Michigan, Cherry Health Foundation, Kids' Food Basket, and Mary Free Bed.

Professionally, Jessie boasts over 25 years of leadership experience in Human Resources and currently works in Talent Attraction at Corewell Health. She also applies her skills in real estate as a member of the Keller Williams GR North Legacy Homes team.

Jessie has been happily married to Joe Jones for 27 years and is the proud mother of four: Eric, Erica, Miles, and Micaela. She is also a devoted grandmother to Briana, Elijah, Isaiah, Eric, Jr., and Dynver.



RALEIGH SMITH BASEBALL FOOTBALL

Raleigh Smith, a distinguished graduate of Ottawa Hills High School and a beacon of athletic prowess in the class of 1960, stands tall among a remarkable cohort of sports talents. Raleigh's athletic journey is nothing short of extraordinary. As a standout high school athlete, Raleigh was a first-team All-City Football selection at running back, showcasing his explosive speed and unmatched agility. His talents extended to the diamond, where he earned a coveted starting position on The Jon Bos All-Star Baseball team, further solidifying his status as a multi-sport star.

Following high school, Raleigh continued to shine on the field, serving as a starting defensive back at Grand Rapids Junior College. Smith extended his athleticism in the ring, putting on gloves to clinch the title of City Champion in the prestigious Golden Gloves boxing tournament. His relentless dedication to sports was matched only by his commitment to service, as he proudly served four years in the U.S. Air Force.

Upon returning to civilian life, Raleigh enrolled at Central Michigan University, where he quickly became a linchpin of the football team. Demonstrating remarkable versatility, he played both offense and defense during his freshman year. By his junior year, he earned All-Conference honors as a safety, a testament to his skill and determination. After overcoming a shoulder injury, he adapted seamlessly to the role of slot receiver in his senior season, where he set a school record for kickoff returns, solidifying his legacy on the field.

Raleigh's impact transcended athletics; he devoted his post-collegiate career to education and mentorship. As a teacher, coach, and athletic director in the Forest Hills and Rockford school systems, he inspired countless students and athletes, leaving an enduring legacy that will be remembered for generations to come. Raleigh Smith's journey is a powerful testament to excellence in sports and a life dedicated to uplifting others.

MANUEL STRONG BASKETBALL FOOTBALL TRACK & FIELD

Born in Sacramento, California, and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Manuel Strong exemplifies a lifelong commitment to excellence and achievement. As a 1995 graduate of Ottawa Hills, he made his mark in three sports, excelling in football, basketball, and track, where his competitive spirit and work ethic set the foundation for his future success. In recognition of his all-around excellence, Manuel was named the OHHS 1995 Senior Male Athlete of the Year by the varsity coaches at Ottawa Hills High School.

Manuel was a standout player on the Ottawa Hills Football Team. He played as a 6'4", 220-pound outside linebacker and tight end, leading the Indians as team captain. A three-year starter, Manuel made significant contributions to the team, catching 39 passes for 702 yards and two touchdowns, while also recording 13 sacks. His accolades include member of the 1992 City Championship Team, three-time All-City Team Member, 1994 MVP, 1994 Associated Press MHSAA All-State Class A 1st Team, and 1995 Honorable Mention All-American status. His exceptional performance earned him a Division I football scholarship to the University of Illinois. He continued to showcase his leadership and athletic prowess. Manual lettered all three years.

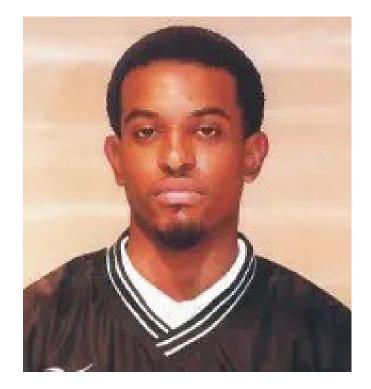
In addition to football, Manuel was a key player in basketball. He contributed to several championships titles which included City League titles in 1992, 1993, and 1994. Also, MHSAA District Champs and MHSAA Regional Champs in 1993. He played a pivotal role in the 1994 Holiday Tournament. The team won the Division Championship. He was selected for the Holiday All-Tournament Team. He continued to excel in 1994 with another City League title and MHSAA District Championship. In 1995, his team was the City League Champion, MHSAA District Champions, and MHSAA Regional Champions, and Manuel was named MVP and earned All-City Honors.

Manuel demonstrated his athleticism in track, achieving a 4th place finish in the 400m relay at the Grand Rapids City League in 1994 and a 3rd place finish in the 800m relay at the state level in 1995, earned MHSAA All-State Honors.

Manual has forged a successful career in the financial services industry. He has over a decade of experience, known for his strategic thinking and impactful decision-making. Manual has ventured into entrepreneurship. He owns a real estate investment company and an angel investment firm.

Above all, Manual is a proud father to his two sons, Xavier and Greyson, who inspire him to lead by example, instilling in them the values of hard work and striving for greatness in every aspect of life.

Manuel Strong's journey from a high school athlete to a successful professional and devoted family man is a testament to his dedication, resilience, and commitment to excellence, making his induction into the Hall of Fame a deserving honor for his lasting impact on the community and future generations.



ENNIS YOUNG BASKETBALL CROSS COUNTRY TRACK & FIELD

Ennis Young is a 1994 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, where he excelled as a three-sport student-athlete earning 12 varsity letters in Track & Field, Cross Country, and Basketball. His exceptional athleticism, endurance, and power were evident from the moment he stepped onto the basketball court.

As a freshman, Ennis made an immediate impact, finishing second in scoring while leading the team in rebounding. His sophomore year Ennis stepped into a more prominent role, starting on the varsity team and earning All-City Honors. While maintaining his leadership in rebounding and ranking second in scoring. Junior year, Ennis had firmly established himself as a dominant player, leading the team in scoring, rebounding, and shot blocking. He earned First Team All-City, First Team All-Area, and All-State Honorable Mention. As Co-captain, he played a pivotal role in securing both the Grand Rapids City League Basketball Championship and the Class A Regional Championship. Ennis' talent was further recognized with selections to the All-Tournament Team and multiple accolades from the Grand Rapids Basketball Press. Senior year, Ennis continued to excel, once again leading the team in scoring, rebounding, and shot-blocking. He earned First Team All-State honors and was named to the Detroit News All-State Dream Team, averaging an impressive 18 points, 12 rebounds, and 4.5 blocks per game. His contributions were instrumental in helping Ottawa Hills clinch three Grand Rapids City League titles, and he was honored as a Ta-Wa-Si High School Men's Legendary All-Star.

After high school, Ennis earned a full scholarship to Division I Bethune-Cookman College, making his mark in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC). After a year, he transferred to Grand Valley State University, where he became an outstanding three-year performer for the Lakers. Young played a crucial role in the Lakers' 1997 GLIAC championship season, contributing to a remarkable overall record of 55-26 during his tenure.

As a two-time All-GLIAC performer, Young also excelled academically, earning Academic All-GLIAC honors. He averaged 10.0 points and 5.4 rebounds as a sophomore, helping the Lakers reach the NCAA Tournament in 1996-97. In his final two years, he led the Lakers in scoring and rebounding, averaging 18.7 points and 8.9 rebounds. His junior year saw him average 17.2 points and 7.9 rebounds, culminating in a stellar senior year with averages of 20.1 points and 9.9 rebounds—just shy of a double-double.

Ennis Young's impressive career at Grand Valley State University has firmly established him as one of the school's all-time greats, earning him a well-deserved spot in the Lakers Hall of Fame. With a remarkable scoring average of 16.1 points per game and a total of 77 blocks, he ranks seventh in school history for blocks and 25th in total points with 1,192. His recognition as a first-team Arthur Ashe All-American Basketball Player further solidifies his status as a dominant force on the court. Beyond his athletic achievements, Ennis is dedicated to his community and proudly serves as a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., showcasing his commitment to making a positive impact both in sports and in his community.



WILLIAM "BILL" ZYLSTRA GOLF SWIMMING & DIVING



A distinguished athlete in both golf and swimming, William Zylstra is a 1969 graduate of Ottawa Hills High School, where he shined as a two-sport athlete. On the golf course, Bill's remarkable talent was evident, as he recorded the lowest scoring average in his junior and senior years. In 1968 and 1969 Bill finished second in the regional championships in 1968 and 1969.

Bill continued to excel at Grand Rapids Junior College, capturing a state championship in 1971 before advancing to compete in Division I golf at Michigan State University, where he earned letters in 1972 and 1973.

Bill's impressive career includes qualifying for 14 USGA championships and twice making appearances in the U.S. Senior Open and the U.S. Amateur.

After turning 55, Bill achieved national recognition, becoming the U.S. Senior Amateur Player of the Year in 2008, 2009, and 2013. His accolades include the Michigan Publinx Golf Association's Honor Roll 17 times and winner of the Golfweek Senior National Championship twice. Notably, he set a tournament qualifying record with a score of 65 in the 2007 Senior Amateur.

From 2006 to 2011, William Zylstra was recognized as the Golf Association of Michigan's Senior Player of the Year, securing 14 individual and team titles throughout his illustrious career. His ongoing success on the national senior amateur circuit has solidified his legacy as a premier golfer, making him a true standout in Michigan's golfing history, as a Michigan Golf Hall of Fame inductee.

STATE CHAMPIONS 1997 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM



The 1997 State Championship Team, a cornerstone of pride for Grand Rapids and the Big O, was a remarkable testament to talent, teamwork, and tenacity. Concluding their season with an impressive 22-6 record, the Ottawa Hills Indians were led by the distinguished and legendary coaches Jim Eaddy and Tom Clinkscales. This squad achieved a historic milestone, becoming only the fourth State Championship Team in the History of Ottawa and Grand Rapids Public Schools.

Their journey through the District and Regional Championships culminated in a triumphant crowning as the 1997 MHSAA Class A State Champions--a feat that had not been achieved since 1969, when Ottawa Hills last reached the Final Four and the championship game.

With tri-captains Eric Large, Ernest McNeil, and Nate Boman at the helm, the team featured two McDonald's All-American Nominees, Eric Large and Jeff Rabey, adding to its legacy. Though initially ranked as a Top 25 preseason team, early setbacks only fueled their determination, transforming them into the state's underdogs and igniting a fierce spirit throughout the MHSAA State Tournament. Their unmatched heart, passion, speed, and athleticism were evident on the court, where the immense presence of twin towers Jeff Rabey and Ryan Christopher dominated the paint.

The 1997 MHSAA Class A State Champions exemplified student leadership on and off the court. Many players advanced to play at the Division I level, while also continuing their legacy as distinguished leaders in their careers and communities. Today, former players shine as successful accountants, athletic directors, attorneys, business leaders, coaches, master electricians, police officers, principals, solutions architect, and other dedicated public-school personnel, among many other distinguished roles. Their accomplishments reflect the values of teamwork, dedication, and leadership that were instilled during their championship journey. The team demonstrated the lasting impact of their experiences on and off the court.

This team, composed of multi-sport student-athletes, not only brought home the championship but also laid the foundation for excellence. Several members being individually recognized as part of the Ottawa Hills Athletic Hall of Fame. The pride and excitement surrounding this team continue to resonate, marking a Golden Chapter in the History of Big O Athletics.

1997 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM:

Tom Barr Nate Bowman Colin Christopher Ryan Christopher Dave Duncan Jon Duncan Derek James Eric Large Ernest McNeil Bilal Muhammad LJ Parker Jeff Rabey Adam Sturdivant Eann Young Head Varsity Coach: Jim Eaddy
Varsity Assistant Coaches: Tom Clinkscales and Jerry Dutcher
Team Manager: Sam Mickens II
JV Coach: Marte Smith
Freshman Coach: Otto Brannum

PAST INDUCTEES

INDUCTEE CLASS OF 2020



1981 MARTI BECKERING SOFTBALL | TENNIS | VOLLEYBALL



1990 HARRY BERRIOS BASEBALL | FOOTBALL



CAMILLA CARTER



1990 DR. JOSETTE CARTER-MCCULLOUGH BASKETBALL | SOFTBALL | VOLLEYBALL



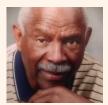
1984 LATONJA CURRY-BUGGS BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1987 MICHAEL DAVENPORT BASKETBALL



1951 DONALD (DON) EADDY BASEBALL | BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL



1947 JAMES (JIM) EADDY BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL



1968 ROB ELLIS BASEBALL | FOOTBALL



2001 DAVID HARRIS FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1951 ROBERT HENDRICKSON BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1982 BRIDGET HOWARD BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD | VOLLEYBALL



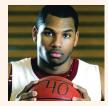
1975 JIMMY JACKSON WRESTLING



1934 BERNARD (BERNIE) JEFFERSON FOOTBALL



1969 ERNEST (ERNIE) JOHNSON BASKETBALL



2007 JUSTIN KEENAN BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL



1968 BOB LURTSEMA BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL



1986 TANYA POWELL BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1968 OTIS SMITH BASKETBALL



1983 FILIPA SMITH-JONES BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD | VOLLEYBALL



1960 MICKEY STANLEY BASEBALL



1973 SIDNEY SWAYMAN-THOMS SWIMMING



1979 CINDY TETT-HOSKINS BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD | VOLLEYBALL



1985 DR. ARNETTA PETERSON THOMPSON

BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD | VOLLEYBALL



1954 PAUL WIEGERINK FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD

INDUCTEE CLASS OF 2023



1968 CARL T. BROWN, MD FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD | WRESTLING



1963 FREDERICK BROWN

BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1969 LARRY DONSTON BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD



STEPHANIE DONSTON

CHEER | SOCCER | TENNIS | TRACK & FIELD | VOLLEYBALL







1974 - 2006 JERRY DUTCHER COACH



1988 HEATHER DUTCHER WILLIAMS GYMNASTICS | SWIMMING-DIVING | TRACK & FIELD



1988 KRISTINE GRAY BASKETBALL | SOFTBALL | VOLLEYBALL



1969 LARRY IKE BASEBALL | BASKETBALL



1997 ERIC LARGE BASKETBALL



1934 ED PAYNE BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | TENNIS



1965 JOHN PIERUCKI BASEBALL | BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL



1986 LISA REYNOLDS BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD | VOLLEYBALL



1986 HUEMARTIN ROBINSON II

BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | POWER-LIFTING | TRACK & FIELD



1984 CHARLES RUFFIN BASEBALL | FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1977 JOHN E. SLYKHOUSE SWIMMING



1965 VERTLEE TRICE BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1962 RICHARD WELLS BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1991 BRITTINA WILLIAMS SWIMMING



1989 GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS

INDUCTEE CLASS OF 2024



1991 EVELYN BASKIN-FIGURES BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD | VOLLEYBALL



1966 MICHAEL COLEMAN BASKETBALL



1981 FAUSTINO GARCIA II FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD | WRESTLING



1981 ANNE HENDRICKSON-WALKER BASKETBALL | SOFTBALL | TENNIS | VOLLEYBALL



1977 MARK HENDRICKSON BASEBALL | BASKETBALL | GOLF



1998 MYIA MCQUIRTER-HUGHES BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD | VOLLEYBALL



1981 DR. LINDA LEE NEAT SOFTBALL | SWIMMING | VOLLEYBALL



1979 CIRRI NOTTAGE BASKETBALL | VOLLEYBALL



1980s WALLY OLSSON CONTRIBUTOR



1982 GREG POLICKA BASEBALL | BASKETBALL | GOLF



1971 RICHARD PRICE BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1981 TERESA SANDERS-GREEN TRACK & FIELD



1979 DANNY SAPP BASKETBALL | TRACK & FIELD



1958 JON SCHOPF BASEBALL | BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL







1974 DARRELL WILLIAMS BASKETBALL | FOOTBALL | TRACK & FIELD | WRESTLING





1967-68 & 1968-69 1967-68 & 1968-69 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS STATE CHAMPIONS

33 | Ottawa Hills Athletic Hall of Fame 2025



APPLICATIONS FOR THE OHHS ATHLETIC 2026 HALL OF FAME ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2026 OTTAWA HILLS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME. NOMINATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2026 INDUCTIONS WILL BE DUE NOVEMBER 14, 2025.





FOR 2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

> 5:00 – 6:30 pm in the Auxiliary Gym



OTTAWA HILLS VARSITY VS. FOREST HILLS EASTERN

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at halftime of the varsity game

OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL PEP SONG

Over Hill, Over Dale, we will hit the dusty trail Ottawa High School is singing this song Up and down, in and out, you can hear the people shout Ottawa High School is singing this song

For it's HI-HI-HEE, in the game we'll always be, shout out your numbers loud and strong: TWO... THREE... For where ever we go, you will always know, Ottawa High School is singing this song

> For it's 0-T-T-A-W-A for Ottawa! 0-T-T-A-W-A for Ottawa! 0-T-T-A-W-A for Ottawa! Fight for Ottawa – Win for Ottawa Fight and Win for Ottawa

Over Hill, Over Dale, we will hit the dusty trail Ottawa Hills School is singing this song

OTTAWA HILLS!!!



OTTAWA HILLS HIGH SCHOOL | 2055 Rosewood Ave SE, Grand Rapids MI, 49506 For more information contact the Ottawa Hills Athletic Department | (616) 819-2879 | harrismar@grps.org

