

Fenwick inducts newest Hall of Fame members

- By Nick Giannino Staff Writer
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STONEHAM — What would life be without sports?

It's a question some individuals might shrug off carelessly, but also one that athletes, coaches and lovers of that pastime have asked themselves time and time again. Friday night at Stoneham's Montvale Plaza, that question was resurfaced for the many former Bishop Fenwick high school athletes being inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

The heralded class ranged from a female pioneer of varsity level golf, to an unexpected and miraculous track star, to a state championship baseball team — and they all had one thing in common: they loved sports.

"When I was told I was being inducted, I didn't know when it would be. But it was extremely exciting and such an honor," said Neil Gendron, a senior captain on the 2004 Crusaders' baseball team that went 23-3 and captured the school's first and only state championship. Gendron and the rest of his teammates and coaches from that special squad were all inducted to the Hall of Fame Friday night in front of nearly 200 men, women and their families.

"I looked back at some of the pictures and articles from that year we won and it really just sparked a lot of memories. That was a special group."

For Gendron and his fellow inductees, the honor and evening as a whole was one big, dramatic trip down memory lane. The records they set, the games they won and the people they shared it with, and all the tiny, yet meaningful plays in between — that's what made the night one to remember.

Gendron and his teammates were joined in the inductee class (the first such class since 2008) by one of the school's first great athletes: Elaine Moulison Greenhalge.

The eldest member of this year's group, Greenhalge graduated from Fenwick in 1963, exactly four years after the school's inception. Unlike any female high school athlete before her, she thrived as a golfer and quickly became one of the top players, male or female, in the state.

Greenhalge, 72, happily shared some of her fondest memories with the Montvale crowd, while thanking everyone that helped her create those memories.

"The boys always hit it farther than I could, but I was much more accurate," joked Greenhalge, who won the United Shoe Country Club (now Beverly Golf and Tennis) Women's Championship at age 16 and competed in a pair of U.S. Girls' Junior Championships in 1962 and 1963. She was also the runner-up in both the W.G.A.M. Junior-Junior and Junior State Championships.

"There's nothing quite like being a part of the Fenwick family," added Greenhalge.

Another member of this year's class was 2008 graduate and star running back Bobby Tarr.

During his storied four-year career, Tarr rushed for an astonishing 5,601 yards, 69 TDs and 426 points. He ended his career as the third all time leading rusher in state history, and ranked eighth in scoring in all-time state history. Perhaps most impressively, Tarr was the first player in state history with back-to-back seasons of over 2,500 rushing yards.

Tarr went on to play football at Bentley University. Now 28, Tarr is able to look back at the career he had with a strong sense of pride and accomplishment — and does so with a smile.

"There's definitely a feeling of nostalgia. Even just this interview ... I haven't done this in a long time," Tarr said on what it felt like to be inducted. "I think my favorite memories are just being together with the team and the guys and the camaraderie we created."

Record-setting track and field star Michael Grady ('78), unhittable softball pitcher Shannon Lyman Blacker ('78), four-sport athlete and soccer standout Meghan King ('01), field hockey extraordinaire Andrea Slaven ('05) and Academic All-American lacrosse star Rebecca Graves ('11) were other Fenwick athletes to be inducted.

Other members of the 2004 state championship baseball team included players Steve Anderson, Mike Bettencourt, Mike Blanchard, Nate Bonaiuto, Harrison Bookstein, John Boyle, Paul Eddy, Bub Giarratani, Jeff Giannino, Mike Hickey, Matt Morrison, Kevin O'Malley, Chris O'Shea, Eric Pelletier, Brendan Pyburn, Ralph Renzulli, Eric Rygiel and David Surface, as well as head coach Kevin McCarthy and assistants Russel Steeves, David Woods, Matt Almeida, Vito Mastrangelo, Brian McCarthy and Willy Tenney (manager).