

Creating an “Athletic Hall of Fame”

Introduction and Pre-assessment

The idea for creating an “Athletic Hall of Fame” at Magruder High School to honor outstanding individuals who either excelled in athletics while attending our school or played a vital role in improving the athletic department was kicked around for several years but never materialized. For over thirty years, Magruder High School has had numerous individuals recognized for excellence at the local, state, national, and international level. Some of our outstanding alumni of Magruder High School include:

Milt Thompson-Philadelphia Phillies
Jerome Williams-Toronto Raptors
Devin Payton-High School All-American and U.S. Futsal National Team Member
Karen Zarchin-High School All-American and Division 1 NCAA Field Hockey
Championship Team Member
Rich Boyajy- M.S.A.D.A. and Superintendent Volunteer Award Winner
Jose Vergas-Rhode Scholar
Tracey Earley-George Washington University Hall of Fame Member for
basketball
Scott Foster-NBA Referee

With so many outstanding individuals who have been part of Magruder High School over the years, I felt a permanent place in our school was necessary so that they could be recognized for their accomplishments and continue to serve as positive role-models for future generations of students. It is with this goal in mind you might consider creating a permanent “Athletic Hall of Fame.”

Program Development

Starting an “Athletic Hall of Fame” required months of planning on my part and significant input from administrators, coaches, faculty, alumni, and the community. The entire process required seven distinct stages in order to ensure that support for this project would be achieved in order for the “Athletic Hall of Fame” to become a reality.

Stage One involved getting the support from the administration. I have arranged weekly meetings with our principal and vice-principal who supervisor of athletics at Magruder High School. At one of these meetings I proposed the idea of an “Athletic Hall of Fame,” which they both supported as a way to promote excellence and citizenship to the entire student body while also reaching out to the alumni. They proposed the following recommendations to ensure full support from the community:

1. Issue an open invitation to anyone who might be interested in being on the committee to help create the criteria for selection and help write the by-laws. They suggested using FirstClass (inter-county e-mail system), fliers on the athletic directors bulletin board, The Courier (PTA sponsored monthly newsletter), and personal phone calls to individuals.

2. Ensure all dates, times, and locations are clearly available to ensure that no one could complain about the lack of information or that the process was done behind closed doors.
3. Ensure that the committee has racial and gender balance.
4. Attempt to have representation from the faculty, administration, booster club, coaching staff, and the community on the committee.

In planning for the next stage, all of the above recommendations were followed in order to publicize the first planning meeting so that the “Athletic Hall of Fame” project could now become a reality.

The Second Stage of the project involved holding a general introductory meeting with all interested people who responded to the open invitation to be part of the planning committee. The meeting lasted two hours with general questions being asked by everyone on a variety of issues and concerns. The following questions were asked which would hopefully be answered when a completed rough draft would be presented at the next committee meeting:

1. What length of time after graduation would be necessary before an athlete could be eligible?
2. Would we hold a banquet in connection with the Hall of Fame inductions and where?
3. Should or will we limit the number of inductees each year?
4. Who would pay for the cost of plaques and banquet?
5. Who would be the represented on the committee?
6. What timeline will be necessary for individuals to follow in order to nominate individuals?
7. How many individuals would comprise the committee?
8. What would be the criteria necessary to be nominated for the award?
9. When would the inductions be held?

The meeting was very successful since all participants had a strong desire to make sure the “Athletic Hall of Fame” would become reality for the upcoming school year.

The Third Stage of the project involved answering the questions from the planning session and incorporating everything into a rough draft proposal for the “Athletic Hall of Fame.” This completed proposal was then presented to coaches and committee members for input and recommendations. The following was our proposal:

Magruder Athletic Hall of Fame (Proposal)

Purpose: To establish a method for honoring Magruder’s top student-athletes and individuals who have made a positive impact on the local community and to provide role models for today’s student athletes. As a result, there will be an increased awareness and pride in Magruder’s athletes of the past and present.

Selection Committee: The selection committee would be comprised of seven adults who would serve for a two year term in the following positions:

Chairperson: Head of the Magruder Hall of Fame Committee (1)

Athletic Director or Assistant Athletic Director (1)

Coaches (3)

Booster Club Representative (1)

Community Representative (1) A Magruder Alumnus who currently lives in the Washington D.C. area

If the chairperson is the current athletic director or assistant athletic director, than a fourth coach will be selected as the seventh member.

The selection committee will assign the following tasks to various members:

Media Coordinator: Communicate with the local media about the induction of members to the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Banquet Coordinator: Locate a restaurant and arrange for the dinner.

Awards: Purchase the plaques for the event.

Secretary: Record and present the minutes of each meeting.

Treasurer: Arrange all financial aspects of this project.

Nomination Coordinator: Advertise and distribute the necessary forms each year to the appropriate groups so that nominations can be made.

Host: Greet the individuals and coordinate the ceremony.

Selection Process: All former Magruder student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, and administrators are eligible for selection into the “Athletic Hall of Fame.” A candidate will be selected when four of the seven selection committee members vote for induction. Selection criteria is listed below:

Eligibility for student-athletes:

- Superior accomplishments as a student-athlete at Magruder High School. (All-County, All-State, etc.,)
- Graduation from Magruder High School five years prior to their nomination.
- Continuing excellence at the collegiate, national, amateur, or professional levels should.
- Clear exemplified characteristics of integrity and sportsmanship, as well as citizenship before and after graduation.
- Academic and post college career accomplishments.

Eligibility for coaches/administrators/community

- Retirement from the position they once held at the school.
- Significant contributions made to the overall athletic program including longevity, overall record, and championships.
- Significant contributions to the community or professional organizations at the state or national levels that promote the ideals of the student-athlete.

Nomination process: Candidates may be nominated at any time during the year. A nomination form can be obtained from the athletic director, Magruder website, or monthly newsletter. In order for a candidate to be nominated, the entire form must be completely filled out and returned to the athletic director prior to May 1.

Induction process:

- Induction ceremonies will take place during the half time of a varsity football game in the fall of each year.
- Candidates may be nominated at anytime. Once a candidate is nominated, his or her nomination stays on file and will be considered each year unless previously removed by the committee.
- The selection committee will meet between May 15th and June 15th of each year to select the inductees, who will then be notified.

Induction Honors:

- Half-time ceremony: At half-time of a varsity football game, the inductees for that given year will be honored with a brief overview of their achievements read over the P.A. and a plaque presented to them by the person who nominated them at midfield.
- Dinner: An award dinner will be held at a local establishment the next day where inductees and their family and friends will be invited. The person who nominated them will give a more detailed list of accomplishments and state why they nominated the individual.
- Athletic Hall of Fame: A second plaque will be placed in the main gym lobby as a permanent reminder of the accomplishments achieved by the individual.

Financial issues: The following costs will be incurred to start and run the “Athletic Hall of Fame” by the athletic department:

- Purchase of two plaques for each inductee will be paid for by the athletic department. One will be given to the inductee and the other placed in the permanent location in the main gym lobby.
- The cost of the inductee’s meal will be covered by the athletic department.
- All guests attending the banquet will pay for their own dinners.
- The athletic department will donate \$300.00 each year towards the cost of the banquet. These funds will be kept in a separate account and will be used to cover any additional expenses and help reduce the overall cost of each dinner for those attending.

The Fourth Stage of the project involved sending the proposed guidelines to all interested committee members who attended the original organizational meeting. Committee members were given a date to submit additions or corrections to the document and to return it to the athletic director who would make the final changes. During this fourth stage, I received no suggested changes and only positive comments

from the eight individuals who participated in that meeting. Also, the induction committee was selected from those who expressed interest.

At this point, the Fifth Stage became necessary which was to submit the proposed document to the Magruder High School administration for review and approval. This was immediately accomplished at the next regularly scheduled meeting and the administration also approved the list of individuals who expressed willingness to serve on the induction committee.

The Sixth Stage involved getting the message out to the coaches, staff, alumni, and community so that nomination forms could be distributed and then returned for consideration to the athletic director by the May 1 deadline. As previously stated, the forms were made available in the Courier newsletter, athletic director's message board, announcements, and personal communication to current and former coaches. The total time period for nominating an individual ran from March 15-May 1 and produced several outstanding nominations. (See attached copies of submitted nomination forms)

The Seventh Stage of the project involved the seven committee members meeting to review the nomination forms and vote on selections to the inaugural group to be inducted into the "Athletic Hall of Fame" at Magruder High School. Five individuals were nominated and all five were approved by a vote of the committee. These individuals included: (see attached profile sheets)

Milt Thompson-Baseball (Unable to attend/delayed for a year)
Devin Peyton-Soccer
Tracey Earley-Field Hockey, soccer, and basketball
Rich Boyajy-Community involvement
Karen Zarchin-Field Hockey, basketball, softball, and soccer

Implementation of Program

The initial induction class to the "Athletic Hall of Fame" occurred during the half-time of a varsity football game held on October 24, 2003 vs. Damascus High School. Each individual and his or her family was greeted at the main gate by the athletic director and assistant athletic director and given a tour of the school and shown the plaque that was installed that day at the permanent Hall of Fame. All inductees were extremely pleased with the plaque and location and enjoyed seeing the changes to the school since graduation or leaving the area. (See attached finished copy of each plaque by Crown Trophies)

During the halftime ceremony, the inductees and the individuals who nominated them went to mid-field of the stadium field while a brief summary of the individuals' accomplishments were read over the public address system. Each inductee then received a plaque.

The next day a banquet with the inductee, his or her family, nominating person, and invited guests attended a sit-down lunch at the “Out of the Way Cafe” in Rockville, Maryland. At the conclusion of the meal, each inductee stood up while the person who nominated them spoke in length on why the individual was nominated him or her for this award. This ceremony was very inspiring and each inductee then had a chance to say a few words.

The local media was invited to attend the banquet as well as the photographer for the school website. These digital photos were placed on the website the next week and the school newspaper included a picture and short biography on each inductee in the next addition of the newspaper.

Conclusion/Evaluation:

Having been able to get this project started from a good idea to reality was something I'm very proud of as athletic director of Magruder High School. The program will grow each year and I have already had students ask what it takes to be selected for this honor. The location of the “Athletic Hall of Fame” is a focal point in our school can be seen by everyone who enters our main gym and travels through the school. I believe the “Athletic Hall of Fame” will continue to provide positive examples of excellence and community involvement by student-athletes and other individuals for our current and future student body of Magruder High School.

Each individual selected this year demonstrated excellence in athletics or community involvement while at Magruder High School and has then gone on in life to be productive citizens of the community and nation. It is with great pride that I worked with or coached each of these individuals during my long tenure at Magruder High School. The inductees are now involved in the following activities:

- Devin Peyton- Continues to play on the U.S. National Fussball Team and runs his own soccer academy in the Washington D.C. area. Donates time to help recreation and Magruder High School players learn the game of soccer.
- Karen Zarchin- Physical education teacher and field hockey coach at a private high school in Northern Virginia. Works at local camps and is active in promoting field hockey to the youth of the Washington D.C. area.
- Tracey Earley- Selected to the George Washington University Hall of Fame and is a Vice-President for Bank of America in North Carolina.
- Rich Boyajy- Recently moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland and continues to work for IBM. He received the volunteer award from the MSADA, recognized for over 1000 hours of volunteer work for Montgomery County Public Schools, recognized for additional volunteer awards, and helped raised \$250,000 for athletic programs at Magruder High School over his ten years of service on the booster club.

These inductees clearly demonstrate the concept of citizenship with all the values listed in National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's Leadership Training Course 503, which we hope the young people in our schools develop and carry on them as they become adults. Such traits that all of these individuals demonstrate include:

Commitment	Dedication
Completion	Discipline
Responsibility	Loyalty
Goal Setting	Teamwork
Respect	Pride
Community Service	Accountability

It has been a pleasure seeing this project go through to completion, my belief is that it will become one of the most sought after accomplishments that the students of Magruder High School can strive to achieve. An athletic hall of fame can be a positive addition to most high schools and something you should consider.