

## **Class of 2014 Hall of Fame Remarks**

### **Chris Barry**

As a 3 sport athlete at Park View, Chris Barry participated in football, wrestling and track during his time at Park View High School. He led the football team to an unprecedented District, Regional and State Championship title in 1988. Chris's hard work garnered recognition as one of the top 25 football prospects by the Roanoke Times and World News. During his football career, he was also selected to the All District, All Region and All State teams on numerous occasions as well as twice being named to the Washington Post All Met team. In addition to his local recognitions, Chris was rated as a top prospect by Super Prep for the mid-Atlantic Region. Chris also continued to contribute to the Patriot athletic program by lettering in both Wrestling and Track.

His Park View football coach, Ed Scott, recalls in his letter of support for the nomination of Chris to the Hall of Fame: "Chris was an outstanding athlete in both football and wrestling. He was probably the best big man in our area for several reasons. He had the rare combination of size, speed and strength. Chris was an integral part of our 1988 State Championship team and our 1989 Region finalist team."

After his successful career in high school, Chris was offered a full scholarship to play football at Virginia Tech. Once again, he excelled for 4 years as an offensive and defensive tackle and was named to the All Big East conference honors during his senior year. His success on the college field led him to be signed as a free agent by the National Football League Philadelphia Eagles in 1994.

Chris Barry is currently a member of the Sterling Park community and works as a fire investigator for the Loudoun County Fire, Rescue and Emergency team. We are proud of his accomplishments both on and off the field and are proud to have him as a member of our Hall of Fame.

Please join me in welcoming Chris Barry to the Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

## **John Kotch**

John Kotch was an athlete that contributed greatly to the football, wrestling, and baseball teams during his time at Park View. As a 4 year letter winner in wrestling, John led the Patriots to District Championship in 1989 and 1991 and a Regional Championship in 1991. Individually, he was an All-District Champion Wrestler for all 4 years; a Regional Champion for 3 years and was the 1991 State Wrestling Champion in the 171 weight class. In addition to these honors, John was named twice to the All Met Wrestling team. At the time, John held the school record for Most Team Points in a Career with 608 points.

John's success did not end on the wrestling mat. He has a 3 year letter winner in football and a member of the District Championship team and Regional runner up in 1989. John's overall contribution to our team was rewarded by being named twice to the All District Team in football and he was named the Associated Press All State Center in 1991. After contributing to the football and wrestling program, he continued on to the baseball field where he lettered for 3 years as an outstanding catcher.

Former teammate and nominator, John Jackson, reflects on John Kotch: "John was, in my opinion, one of the best athletes at Park View and physically was as strong as anyone I knew...There wasn't a day that went by at practice when John wasn't going by slapping people on the helmet, telling them to step up and practice/play the way we were coached and not to slack off."

John Kotch continues his love of football by volunteering his time to coach young men in the Purcellville community. Park View High School is proud of John and his contributions to three sports during his time here.

Please join me in welcoming John Kotch to the Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

## Joe Lightfoot

To those involved in Wrestling in the early 1980's, Joe Lightfoot was known to be a fierce grappler. As his fellow teammate, Jim Pangburn describes Joe: "At the state tournament, opponents rarely lasted beyond the first period before being crushed by Joe Lightfoot."

Joe led the Patriots to a District title in 1981 and 1984; a Regional Championship in 1984 and a State runner up in his Senior year. Individually, he was the District Champion for 3 years and also was a Region Champion in 1984. Although he competed in the unlimited weight class for his freshman and sophomore year, he easily transitioned to the 185 lb weight class his Junior and Senior years. His hard work and dedication to wrestling earned him the title of the 1984 State Champion Wrestler for the 185 lb class. Joe was a tireless competitor who compiled a perfect 29 wins and 0 losses for his senior year. At the time, he held the record for most take downs in a season; most take downs in a career and most wins in a career.

Although recruited by many colleges, Joe selected George Mason University where was a member of their wrestling team and went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. After graduating from college, he became a firefighter with the Arlington County Fire Department where he is currently a Captain and was a first responder during the attack on the Pentagon in 911. In a letter of recommendation from his current Battalion Chief, Nathan Miller describes Joe: "It is very important to Captain Lightfoot to model all of the aspects of what is expected of firefighters...I know he call upon his formative years at PVHS and what he learned there in the classroom and on the wrestling team, to accomplish this."

Joe Lightfoot is an excellent member of his community and we applaud him for his efforts in continuing to serve the people of Arlington.

Please join me in welcoming Joe Lightfoot to the Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

## Karie Morrison

Karie Morrison was an integral part in the overall success of the Patriots softball team from 1999-2003. Her accomplishments are extensive and she has left behind a legacy that will be unmatched by all pitchers that follow. Karie was an All District, All Region and All State selection during all 4 years at Park View. Her teams were District Champions or runner up every year. In regional play, Karie and the Patriots competed every year and were Champions or Runner Up for 3 years. In 2002, her team won the VHSL State Championship with a thrilling victory over rival Broad Run. As former coach, Beth Walker, writes in her nomination letter: "Karie was one of the driving forces in our 2002 State Championship game where she pitched the entire 14 innings in our 1-0 victory over previously unbeaten Broad Run."

During her career, Karie was named to the Washington Post 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Met squad and was selected the Player of the Year for 2003. She currently holds the PVHS softball record for the following categories:

- 4 Perfect Games;
- 9 No Hitters
- Most Strike Outs in a Game – 19
- Lowest Earned Run Average – 0.31

Karie's college career included 4 years playing softball for the Virginia Tech, where they appeared in the NCAA Tournament on 3 occasions. Her teammate Megan Stone writes: "Karie had a very strong work ethic in the weight room, during practice and even in the classroom. She would always strive to be the best she could possibly be for herself and her teammates."

Another teammate from the VA Tech team, Ashley Thatcher spoke of Karie in her recommendation letter: "Through her journey as a student/athlete, Karie became familiar with both successes and struggles. But unlike more people, she always found a way of turning a difficult situation in a positive situation."

Karie Morrison was a successful athlete at PVHS and beyond during her years at VA Tech with support from her dad, Karl Morrison. Her commitment and dedication to her team allowed us to have one of the most successful eras in softball for PVHS, Loudoun County and Virginia.

Please join me in welcoming Karie Morrison to the Park View Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

## Megan Smith

When Megan Smith began her playing career for the Patriots in 1999, the softball team had a record of 8 wins and 10 losses. By the time she left in 2002, we had won the AA State Championship with an overall record of 59 wins and 11 losses. Megan was instrumental in taking the Patriots from a losing season to being the best in the state of Virginia.

A competitive athlete, Megan worked hard to get the most out of herself and the players around her. She received the highest athletic recognitions possible during her career at PVHS. Megan was All District, All Region, All State and a 1<sup>st</sup> Team selection to the Washington Post All Met Softball team. These accolades were often repeated each season. As the starting 1<sup>st</sup> baseman for 4 years, Megan contributed power in our lineup as the cleanup hitter with a career batting average of .406. She currently holds the PVHS record of Most RBI's in a game (8).

Her coach, Beth Walker, writes in her nomination letter of Megan: "Megan remains by far as one of the best softball players that I had the pleasure of coaching during my 27 years at PVHS." Another former coach, Tom Garguilo writes in his letter of recommendation: "Megan possess outstanding qualities including determination, persistence, focus, drive, a superior work ethic and many qualities you can't teach. Her commitment to her teammates planted a seed which served the Park View community well."

After Park View, Megan accepted a scholarship to play for the James Madison University Dukes where she was starter for all 4 years. She currently holds the record for most doubles in a career and had the first walk-off homerun in school history.

After college, Megan returned to Loudoun County Public Schools as a teacher and head softball coach. As her former coach, Paul Earle states in his letter of recommendation: "Megan is a credit, not only to herself, but to her local community, her family and to Park View High School."

We couldn't agree more...Please join me in welcoming Megan Smith to the Park View Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

## **J.P. Taylor**

A three sport athlete, J.P. Taylor played football, baseball and wrestled during his time at Park View High School. Although he was successful in all 3 sports, his greatest accomplishments came as a wrestler for the Patriots. He led the team to 2 District championships, a Regional Championship and twice a State Runner Up. Individually, J.P. was a District Champ, Region Champ and was the State Champion in the 125 lb weight class in 1991. At the time, J.P. held the school records for Most Falls in a Season; Most team points in a season; Career Most Falls and Most Team Points.

J.P.'s hard work paid off with recognition as a Washington Post All Met wrestler and was named the Most Valuable Wrestler for his team on 2 occasions. As a football player, he helped lead the Patriots to a District championship and Regional runner up title while being named the Most Valuable Player for Football in 1990. J.P. capped off his excellent high school career by being named the Loudoun Times Mirror 1991 Male Athlete of the year.

Former coach, Greg Mitchell, writes in his letter of nomination for J.P.: "In his attire, demeanor and presentation, J.P. Taylor has always been an outstanding young man. As an athlete, he was a hardworking and ambitious team player who set exemplary examples for his peers."

After high school, J.P. continued his journey by accepting a wrestling scholarship to Division I Edinboro College. While at Edinboro, he placed in the Edinboro Open, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference and Easter Wrestling League. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Edinboro in 1996.

Currently employed by the Franklin County Police Department as a Sergeant, J.P. received the Life Saving Medal for a 2 hour negotiation with a subject that wanted to commit suicide. The subject informed the FPD that J.P.'s negotiation saved his life.

An excellent athlete and role model for others; a committed community member and loving family man; J.P Taylor has made Park View High School very proud.

Please join with me in welcoming J. P. Taylor to the Park View Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

## **Coach Larry Simms**

An inaugural member of the staff that opened Park View High School in 1976, Coach Larry Simms has made an impact during his 29 years of coaching both boys and girls basketball teams. Larry coached the 1<sup>st</sup> JV boys basketball team from 1976-1990 and was the head girls basketball coach from 1990-2005.

As the leader of the Lady Patriots, Coach Simms led his teams to an unprecedented 7 District Championships; 4 Regional Championships or Runner Up and 6 State Tournament appearances. As a result of his success, he has been a Virginia High School Coaches Association All Star coach for 3 years.

His records are remarkable and Coach Simms has been recognized two times by the Patriot's Club as Coach of the Year and six times by the Loudoun Times Mirror in the same capacity. In addition, his teams were the Loudoun County Tip-Off Tournament Champions for 4 years. During his coaching career, he led two teams to undefeated regular seasons.

Former colleague and coach Jill Raschiatore writes in her support of Coach Simms: "Coach Simms was more than just a basketball coach. To his players, he was a coach, mentor, motivator, role model, father figure and friend. As a coach, he brought out the best in each player and his teams always achieved above the expectations of others."

After over 40 years of teaching, Coach Simms retired from Loudoun County Public Schools. Despite his recent retirement, we know that he will continue to attend many PVHS events and will be cheering on the Patriots as he has done for many years.

As Coach Raschiatore commented: "Once of my team rules has always been to pick up the trash before exiting any bus and telling my players how important it is to leave things better than when you found them. Perhaps this is because I watched Larry Simms leave every life he has touched a little better than when he found it. "

Please join me in welcoming Coach Larry Simms to the Park View Hall of Fame Class of 2015.

