



## ***Kurt Liechty***

Kurt Liechty graduated from Hobart High School in 1979 and was an outstanding two sport athlete competing in track for Coach Jim Johnston and also running cross country for Coach Don Hancock. Kurt earned a total of six varsity letters, three in track and three in cross country.

In 1978 Kurt became Hobart's first individual cross country state champ. His 2 1/2 mile time of 12:01 was and still is the Hobart High School record.

In track Kurt was a three time state qualifier in the mile. He went undefeated in the mile during his senior year. In addition, Kurt was ranked among the "Top Five" milers in the United States during his senior year.

In the spring of 1979 Kurt was the individual winner at both the sectional and regional track meets in the mile run. He went on to become the state champ in the mile run with a time 4:08.6 His time still stands as the Hobart High School record.

Kurt also posted a victory in the mile run at the prestigious "Midwest Meet of Champions" which pitted the state champs from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio against each other at the conclusion of their high school season.

Kurt went on to college at Western Michigan where he graduated in 1984. Kurt was an "All-American" at Western Michigan during the 1980 indoor track season.

## ***Dave Tipton***

Dave Tipton graduated from Hobart High School in 1971. While at Hobart Dave competed in wrestling for Coach Al Thomas and he played football for Coach Don Howell.

Dave was sectional champ in wrestling and placed third at the regionals his senior year.

He was an "All-State" football player his senior season for the Brickies. Dave was selected to play in the North/South All Star game where he started as a defensive tackle.

Dave went on to college attending Western Illinois where he graduated in 1975. While at Western Illinois he started every game from 1972-1974. In 1972 he tied a school record for the most tackles in a game. He also recorded the most solo tackles for a lineman in the same season.

Dave was an Associated Press "All American" in 1974. He also recorded the most sacks in a single season and ended up as the career leader in tackles. In 1974 he was voted the team's Most Valuable Defensive Player and was also selected as a member to Western Illinois Greatest Defensive Team of all time.

Dave went on to play professionally for the New England Patriots in 1975-76 and 1977 he was a defensive end for the San Diego Chargers. In 1978 he played the Hamilton Tiger Cats.

Dave continued his career in the USFL, playing for the Michigan Panthers and the Arizona Wranglers where he became an USFL "All Pro" for three seasons. He led the USFL in sacks and was a team MVP.

In 1991 Dave was inducted into the Western Illinois Athletic Hall of Fame.



## ***Congratulations*** ***2012*** ***Athletic Hall of*** ***Fame Inductees***



Steve Balash

Charlie Boston

Bob Bowman

John Dubenetzky

Kurt Liechty

Dave Tipton

## ***Steve Balash***

Steve Balash graduated from Hobart High School in 1968 where he was an outstanding three sport athlete for the Brickies competing in track for Coach Frank Kurth, basketball for Coach Jim Johnston and in football for Coach Russ Deal and Coach Don Howell. Steve earned seven varsity letter for the Brickies.

In football Steve was a team captain and became "All-State" both as a junior and as a senior. His senior year he made the Bloomington Herald top 50 All-Stars and became the second athlete to make the North/South All-Star Team.

Steve earned a football scholarship to Indiana State and went to play as a guard and tackle for the Sycamores. He was a three year starter and was named a captain his senior year. Steve earned MVP honors in a crucial game against rival Southern Illinois.

In 1972 Steve returned to Hobart to teach PE, health, woods and metal shop in addition to coaching for the Brickies. He has been an assistant football coach, assistant and head wrestling coach, and assistant track coach for 40 years. Steve was also voted by his peers as the Hobart Educator of the Year in 2001.

Steve was inducted as a member to both the Indiana Wrestling Hall of Fame and Indiana Football Hall of Fame. He has also earned Conference Coach of the Year honor five times in three different conferences.

In wrestling he was named as the Indiana Coach of the Year and Regional Coach of the Year by his peers. To date Steve has produced 140 sectional champs, 46 regional champs, 15 semi-state champs, and he has taken 55 wrestlers to the state finals, producing 8 state champions. In track he has taken 17 throwers to the track state finals.

## ***Charlie Boston***

Charlie Boston graduated from Hobart High School in 1970 where he was a three sport standout in football, basketball, and baseball.

Charlie earned eight varsity letters and was named as Hobart's Outstanding Senior Athlete for 1969-1970.

In football, Charlie was known throughout Northwest Indiana for his elusive running style, toughness and outstanding ability.

Charlie was named as the Hammond Times and Post Tribune "All-Area Quarterback". He still holds Hobart's longest touchdown run from scrimmage of 99 yards versus Portage in 1969. He was chosen as a "Top 33" North All-Star selection at quarterback in 1970.

Charlie graduated from Western Illinois University in 1975 earning a masters in 1976 and was a three year starter as a defensive back from 1971-1973. He was credited with 11 career interceptions; returning 2 interceptions for touchdowns.

He played professional football in the World Football League for the New York Stars in 1974.

Charlie coached at the collegiate level for Western Illinois University and Valparaiso University. He also served as the head football coach at Kankakee Valley and Hobart High Schools.

Charlie was varsity assistant for Don Howell and was part of the multiple sectional, regional and state championship teams in the 80's and 90's.

In 2009, Charlie was honored by being inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame.

## ***Bob Bowman***

Bob Bowman graduated from Hobart High School in 1971 and was an outstanding two sport athlete for the Brickies competing in track for Coach Jim Johnston and running cross country for Coach Don Hancock.

During the 1970 cross country season Bob was an individual champ at both the sectional and regional levels. He was also the semi-state champ and his time of 9:16 was the second fastest time ever recorded at semi-state. Bob went on to earn "All-State" honors his senior year in cross country.

During the 1971 track season Bob won conference, sectionals, and regional titles in the two mile run. He was an undefeated State-Champion in the two mile run his senior year. His two mile time still stand as the Hobart High School record.

Bob's senior season was capped off by running the anchor leg for the Hobart four mile relay team at the Mansfield Relays in Ohio. Bob and his teammates defeated teams from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. That relay team ended the season ranked third in the nation and their relay record still stands as the Hobart school record.

Bob went on to run at Ball State earning his diploma in 1975. At Ball State he was chosen team captain in 1974 and was a nominee for the "Outstanding College Athlete of America". He appeared in three NCAA Finals while at Ball State.

## ***John Dubenetzky***

John Dubenetzky graduated from Hobart High School in 1973. While at Hobart John participated in three sports. He played baseball for Coach Moe Rhody, basketball for Jim Lichtenberger, and football for Coach Don Howell. In Northwest Indiana John affectionately became know as "Dubo".

He was named Hammond Times "Athlete of the Year" in 1973.

In 1972, "Dubo" helped lead the Brickies to their first basketball sectional championship. The 1972 team finished the season with a 22-3 record and was ranked as high as 6th in the state polls that season. The following year, averaging 20.5 points per game, the Brickies upset the number one ranked team in the state, East Chicago Washington, in the sectionals.

In football he led the Brickies to a 9-1 record and their first Duneland Conference title in 1972. John was both "All Conference" and "All-State" his senior year. He was highly recruited as a football player, receiving offers from Big Ten schools and several East Coast colleges. He went on to play football at Notre Dame for coach Ara Parseghian and Coach Dan Devine.

In 1975, as a sophomore, John played a key role in Notre Dames's Orange Bowl victory over Alabama, recovering a fumble and intercepting a pass late in the game. In 1976, as a junior, John played a significant role in helping the the Irish capture a 20-9 victory over Penn State in the Gator Bowl.

John graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in business and later went on to have a successful career in the business working for United States Gypsum in Palm Springs, California

