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# Haverhill Public Schools

*Office of the Athletic Director*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Haverhill Announces Inaugural Hall of Fame Class

<Haverhill, MA> Haverhill High School has announced the inductees for its Athletics Hall of Fame inaugural class. Eleven individuals will be inducted at the first HHS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony this spring.

Inductees:

**Kate Abromovitch '89 ..... Basketball, Golf, Softball**  
**Andy Alsup '97 ..... Football, Track**  
**Matt Battistini '78 ..... Football, Track**  
**Duane Carlisle '83 ..... Football, Basketball, Track**  
**Dan Conway '76 ..... Football**  
**Heidi Hannenian '89 ..... Swimming**  
**Kerry (Horgan) DeVries '88 ..... Field Hockey, Basketball, Softball**  
**R. John Ottaviani '57 ..... Coach, Athletic Director**  
**Carlos Pena '95 ..... Baseball**  
**Mary Schena '83 ..... Cross Country, Track**  
**Kevin Woelfel ..... Coach**

The Haverhill High School Hall of Fame was established this year to honor former students, coaches, and administrators who excelled in the field of athletics while attending HHS and for their accomplishments after high school. Its purpose is to perpetuate the memory of those persons who have brought distinction, honor, and excellence to Hillie athletics and familiarize the entire community and alumni with the high school's rich athletic history.

The inductees will be honored at a special ceremony to be held on Saturday, April 29 at the new Caleb Dustin Hunking School. Ticket information will be announced at a later date.

Abromovitch and Woelfel helped lead one of the most successful high school dynasties in the history of the state. Woelfel was the head coach of that storied girls' basketball program, which between 1986 and 1996, won six MIAA Division 1 State Championships. Woelfel led the program for 25 years, compiling a record of 402-154 and winning 12 conference championships.

Abromovitch played a key role in the first two of those state championships as a member of 1987 and 1989 title teams. She went on to an outstanding career at Fairfield University. She scored 1,494 points for the Stags and was inducted into the Fairfield Hall of Fame in 2015.

Battistini and Schena still hold long-standing school records that have not come close to being matched. Battistini, who was also a standout football player, finished up an accomplished track career by setting records in the shot put for both indoor (60' 5") and outdoor (58' 7"). Schena, arguably the best female distance runner in school history, set marks in the indoor mile (5:00.9), indoor 2-mile (10:55.4), outdoor mile (5:01.9) and outdoor 2-mile (11:01.5) that still stand today. She was a two-time All-Scholastic selection and went on to compete at Holy Cross, where she helped the team to a second place finish at the NCAA Division II Nationals.

Hannanian won an incredible eight swimming state championships between 1985 and 1989. She won four titles in the 200 IM, three in the 100 butterfly and one in the 500 free and still holds two school records. She went on to a decorated career in Surf Life Saving competitions as a Los Angeles County Lifeguard, representing the USA in numerous national and international competitions. The Taplin Race is a well-known lifeguarding medley relay competition dating back to the 1940's. In 2000, Hannanian became the first female in the history of the competition to be on a winning Taplin team.

Conway is one of the best football players to wear the brown and gold in the 120-year history of the program. The running back scored 37 touchdowns and led the Hillies to a 21-8 record over his three years on the varsity team. He went on to a successful career at Boston College, rushing for over 2,000 yards and was drafted by the Buffalo Bills.

An All-State champion in 1982, Carlisle's record in the triple jump has stood for 33 years. He went on to record-setting college careers at both Boston University and the University of Maryland. Most recently the Director of Sports Performance at Purdue, he has had a remarkable career in strength and conditioning. This includes positions with the San Francisco 49er's, Philadelphia Eagles, Tampa Bay Devil Rays, LaSalle University and Penn State University.

Pena is perhaps the most recognizable name among Haverhill alumni. After starring for the Hillies and Northeastern University, Pena went on to a successful 13-year Major League baseball career with several organizations. He was named to the All-Star team and led the American League with 39 home runs in 2009. He also earned the Gold Glove

Award (2008), Silver Slugger Award (2007) and AL Comeback Player of the Year Award (2007).

After a stellar career at HHS, (Horgan) Devries earned a Division I scholarship in field hockey to Iowa, where she was named All-America. As the field hockey head coach at Kent State University, she was a six-time MAC Coach of the Year and is the all-time winningest coach in school history. As a First Team All-Scholastic pitcher on the Hillie softball team she posted a 55-8 career mark, helped the team to a 23-game winning streak and an appearance in the state title game in 1988.

Alsop's many accomplishments on the track include three New England titles, three outdoor track state titles, and two indoor track state titles. The 1997 Eagle-Tribune Athlete of the Year still owns five school track records and was also an all-state receiver for the football team. He went on to an extraordinary career at Northeastern in both sports. He was a nine-time America East Conference track champion and is considered one of the top receivers in school history.

Last, but far from least, is the legendary Ottaviani, also known as "Coach O". Long-time track coach and athletic director, Ottaviani posted an overall coaching record of 221-40-4. This includes a boys' outdoor track dual meet record of 96-6-1. He was inducted into the Massachusetts State Track Coaches Hall of Fame. A 1957 graduate of HHS, Ottaviani was a member of the famed 1955 state champion football team.

From 1980 to 1982, the City of Haverhill held induction ceremonies for a city-wide Sports Hall of Fame. This included all athletes from the City of Haverhill regardless of where they attended school. In addition to this year's inductees, all individuals that are in the City of Haverhill Sports Hall of Fame that attended Haverhill High School will automatically be inducted into the HHS Athletics Hall of Fame.

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