

PIAA District XI is honored to announce its next class of the District XI Hall of Fame. 13 inductees were selected as members of this class to the District XI Hall of Fame. Inductees were selected from nominations made by member schools, officials' chapters, and media members. Nominees are selected on their accomplishments on the high school level and are not inclusive of accomplishments outside of high school athletics. Constituencies may nominate additional athletes by completing the forms located on the District XI website, www.districtxi.com. The nomination deadline for each class is May 1 of each induction year.

Our Hall of Fame Ceremony will take place on Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 4pm at the The Delta Hotel in Breinigsville. Dinner will precede our induction ceremony. Tickets for the event are \$65 and can be purchased by contacting District XI Vice Chairman Ray Ramella at rramella@nazarethasd.org. The deadline to purchase tickets is October 1.

The inductees of the Class of 2026 to the District XI Hall of Fame are:

Bob Chandler

Erika (Barron) Davis

Amanda Gerhard

Keith Groller

Jake Jakobsen

Ken Lacey

Brian Neefe

Stacy Perryman

Mike Seip

Steve Shiffert

Andre Williams

Frank Yelinko

Mike Zambelli

Bob Chandler was one of the most accomplished distance runners in Northern Lehigh history, capping his high school career with the 1992 PIAA Class AA Cross Country State Championship and the 1993 PIAA Class AA 3200-meter State Championship. A three-time District XI and Centennial League cross country champion, Chandler also earned two PIAA state cross country bronze medals, set the District XI AA 3200-meter record, won 11 varsity letters, and established multiple Northern Lehigh and Centennial League records. He was twice named Northern Lehigh Athlete of the Year and was later inducted into the school's Ring of Honor.

Erika (Barron) Davis was one of the most accomplished multi-sport athletes in Tamaqua Area High School history, earning varsity letters in basketball, track and field, cross country, and volleyball. She

finished her basketball career as the school's all-time leading scorer—boys or girls—with 2,317 points, earned first-team All-State honors as a junior and second-team honors as a senior, and had her No. 3 jersey retired, becoming just the second female player in school history to receive that honor. Davis was also a three-time PIAA Track & Field state qualifier and a member of a District XI championship cross country team.

Amanda Gerhard was one of the premier multi-sport athletes in Catasauqua High School history, earning 14 varsity letters in soccer, field hockey, basketball, and track and field. A three-time Colonial League first-team selection in girls soccer, she was named *The Morning Call* Player of the Year in 2008 and earned PSCA All-State and NSCAA Regional All-America honors in both 2007 and 2008. Gerhard helped lead Catasauqua to two Colonial League championships, the 2007 District XI title, and the 2007 PIAA Class A state runner-up finish while concluding her career as the leading female goal scorer in District XI history with 152 goals. She also captured District XI track championships in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. She was inducted into the Catasauqua High School Hall of Fame in 2023.

Keith Groller has been one of the most respected and recognizable voices in District XI athletics during a distinguished career spanning more than four decades with *The Morning Call*. Since joining the newspaper in 1979 out of high school and becoming a fulltime employee of the newspaper in 1983, Groller has provided comprehensive coverage of high school sports, becoming a trusted source for athletes, coaches, and fans throughout the Lehigh Valley. Known for his insightful reporting, feature writing, and commitment to promoting local athletics, he has chronicled countless championship moments while shining a spotlight on generations of District XI student-athletes. His dedication to high school sports has earned numerous state and national journalism honors, and his work has played a significant role in preserving the rich history and traditions of District XI athletics, making him one of the area's most influential sports journalists.

Jake Jakobsen established himself as one of the most dominant wrestlers in District XI and Pennsylvania history during his career at Stroudsburg High School. He compiled an outstanding 146-23 record, won three varsity letters, and became the first wrestler in Monroe County history to capture a PIAA state championship, claiming the Class AAA title in 2016 after finishing as the state runner-up in 2015. Jakobsen also won the 2015 Northeast Regional championship, earned two *Morning Call* All-Area first-team selections, and was named the 2016 Wrestler of the Year.

Ken Lacey was one of the most dominant basketball players in Stroudsburg High School history, leading the Mountaineers to the 1996 District XI Class 4A championship while rewriting the school's record book. He set single-season school records with 702 points, 380 rebounds, and a 62.2 percent field goal percentage. Lacey was named *The Morning Call* Player of the Year, Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year, a two-time MVC champion and first-team all-conference selection, a two-time All-Area selection, and earned second-team All-State honors and Honorable Mention McDonald's All-America recognition.

Brian Neefe built one of the most accomplished and respected coaching careers in District XI history during his 52 seasons as Southern Lehigh High School's head softball coach from 1972–2024. Under

his leadership, the Spartans compiled an incredible 847-269 record while capturing 28 Colonial League championships and nine District XI titles. His teams reached the PIAA state championship game in 1977 and advanced to the state semifinals four times.

Stacy Perryman established herself as one of the premier multi-sport athletes in East Stroudsburg history before enjoying a successful coaching career. She scored 1,692 career basketball points, finishing as the school's all-time leading female scorer and second overall. A 12-time varsity letterwinner, Perryman earned MVP honors in field hockey, basketball, and softball, was a two-time Centennial League girls basketball champion, and was recognized as the school's outstanding all-around female athlete.

Mike Seip devoted more than five decades to high school swimming, building one of the most successful and influential coaching careers in District XI history. As the head swimming coach at Emmaus High School from 1982–2001, he guided the Hornets to an extraordinary 442 combined dual-meet victories, 26 PIAA state championships, 23 District XI team titles, and 31 league championships. His athletes earned 77 All-America honors, and his leadership was recognized with three EPC Coach of the Year awards.

Steve Shiffert built one of the most successful football coaching careers in District XI history during more than four decades on the sidelines. He served as the Easton Red Rovers' head coach from 1993–2016. Shiffert compiled a remarkable 216-89-1 record, becoming the winningest head football coach in Easton history while also posting a 17-6-1 mark in the storied Easton-Phillipsburg rivalry. Under Shiffert's leadership, Easton captured six league championships, five District XI titles, and reached 13 district championship games while advancing to three PIAA Eastern Finals.

Andre Williams enjoyed one of the most dominant football careers in District XI history at Parkland High School before going on to national success at the collegiate and professional levels. As a senior in 2010, Williams rushed for 1,913 yards and 33 touchdowns, earned Morning Call Player of the Year honors, and received All-State recognition while establishing himself as one of the premier running backs in Pennsylvania. He was also a standout track and field athlete, excelling in the sprints and hurdles. Williams continued his career at Boston College, where he became one of the nation's top running backs. Selected by the New York Giants in the fourth round of the 2014 NFL Draft, Williams played four seasons in the NFL and was a member of the Super Bowl LIII champion New England Patriots.

Frank Yelinko served as head of the Salisbury High School baseball team from 1971-1999. During his tenure, he compiled a remarkable overall record of 401-252. He amassed ten Colonial League Championships along with four District XI titles and nine PIAA State appearances. Yelinko also served as head Boys Basketball coach for the Falcons for seven years where he had an overall record of 118-71 with two Colonial League Championships and a District XI Championship in 1996.

Mike Zambelli has been a driving force in the coverage and promotion of District XI athletics through a distinguished career with Service Electric Network. For more than three decades, he has

served as a producer, director, and on-air personality, helping bring high school football, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, and other championship events into homes across the Lehigh Valley. Zambelli has played a key role in developing Service Electric's award-winning local sports programming, showcasing countless student-athletes and memorable moments while elevating the visibility of District XI sports. His professionalism, creativity, and unwavering commitment to local athletics have made him one of the region's most influential sports broadcasters and a valued ambassador for high school sports. Mike has also served as the Master of Ceremonies for the District XI Hall of Fame banquet since its inception.