



June 2011

AROUND THE PARISH

BEING DAD AND BEING THERE

It would be something of an overstatement to say that I played on the school basketball team in junior high.

I was on the team. I practiced with the team. I wore the black and white uniform. Yes, color HAD been invented by this time - black and white were our school colors...or absence of colors, as the case may be of the mighty Millcreek Mustangs.

I ran out on the floor and did lay-ups before the game started, then I sat on the bench and waved a towel and cheered for the guys who were actually going to play in the game. And when we won, I hugged cheerleaders and Pep Club members, who seemed to like hugging me because I wasn't at all sweaty.

As far as I was concerned, it was a pretty good arrangement. I enjoyed the camaraderie with the players, the workouts kept me in shape, I had a great seat for all of the games and I got a number of exuberant post-game hugs from Heidi Van Ert, who was the president of the Pep Club and the object of my 9th grade affection. But I didn't feel any of the pressure that comes with knowing that the outcome of the game may rest on your bony adolescent shoulders.

I don't know how my Dad felt about my bench-warming status. We never talked about it. In retrospect, I imagine it was hard for him. Dad was a gifted athlete. He played basketball and ran track in college. He was fast and strong and he could jump like a kangaroo - at least, that's what it says in his news clips.

By the time I was old enough to play ball with him he was well into his 50s and wasn't moving like he used to. But he could still kill me in games of H-O-R-

S-E with a two-handed set shot from half-court - time after time after time.

Two of my older brothers were high school sports stars, and the third was an important part of a college basketball team that won the NIT championship (OK he was the equipment manager - he still received an NIT championship ring that he wore until the day he died.)

Dad was used to going to games to watch his sons PLAY. I'm not sure how he felt about going to games to watch his son SIT. And cheer. And wave a towel. And, hopefully, hug.

Still, Dad was always there in his suit and tie, usually standing in a corner of the gym, leaning against the wall. I'd make eye contact with him during pre-game lay-ups - it would've been uncool to smile or wave. And then I forgot about him until after the game - and the hugging - when he'd come up to me and smile and shake my hand and tell me, "Good game!"

Even though I never actually did anything to make the game good.

Until the last game of the season.

We were playing our arch-rivals, The South Davis Redmen (OK, so maybe we didn't have actual colors for school colors - at least our mascot wasn't politically incorrect). It was a great day for the Mustangs, as we galloped off to a bid lead. We were up by about 20 with two minutes to play when coach finally felt comfortable enough to look toward my end of the bench.

"Walker!" he barked. "You're in!"

The next two minutes are still kind of surreal to me. I remember running up and down the court a few times. I remember getting a rebound on defense and then running up the floor as the Pep Club starting counting down the last seconds of the game. I remember hearing the yell "5!" just as Mark passed the ball to me. I remember hearing the guys on the

bench behind me shouting "Shoot!" as I faced the basket - and shot. I remember watching the ball bounce off the backboard and through the hoop as the buzzer went off. I remember hearing everyone scream and yell like I had just won the game even though it just meant that we won by 22, not 20. And I remember wondering what to do. I mean, I knew what to do when we won a game while I was sitting on the bench. But I was completely unprepared for what to do when we won a game and I had hit a last-second shot - meaningless though it may have been.

Instinctively, I looked for Dad. And he was there, where he always was, smiling at me as he always did. And somehow that helped - just knowing he was there - and I came back to my senses in time to give a sweatier-than-usual hug to Heidi.

For the next 35 years that was always the case - not the "sweaty hug" part, but the "Dad was there" part.

Through good times and bad, Dad was always there to smile, to encourage, to support and to love. I came to depend on that, even toward the end of his life when smiling was about all that he could do. It helped to know that, no matter what, Dad was there.

And now I'm the one who is in my 50s struggling to keep pace with a teenage basketball player in my family. I think about Dad on Father's Day or whenever I'm tempted to NOT be there for my children.

To be honest, I'm not as good at it as Dad was. But I keep trying because I know how much it can mean for Dad to be there when you hit the big shot. Or especially when you don't.

SHS ANNUAL FUND

Still climbing toward our \$75,000 goal!

It's not too late to help! You can still make a donation to the SHS Annual

Fund through June 30th, 2011. As of May 11th, we've surpassed \$62,000 and need your help getting that last \$13,000. Each dollar we raise through our Annual Fund reduces the amount of Parish subsidy for the school. All donations go to help the students and Sacred Heart School now. As a parish, we can be proud to have a strong and thriving school with a long tradition of Catholic education excellence dating back to 1919.

Help us keep SHS one of the best Catholic elementary schools in Berks County and send in your donation today if you haven't done so already. Every donation no matter how small is greatly appreciated. We thank our Parish family for your continued support of our school.

To donate online visit www.sacredheartreading.com and click the DONATE link. Donation forms are also available online, from the school office, and at the SHOPS desk in the narthex of the church. Questions, contact Ruth Butler, (610) 745-8273 or rbutler@sacredheartreading.org.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Goldie Theresa Motley
Daughter of Patrick & Ginger Motley
Goldie was born on 12-30-10

Suzanna Lily Bressler
Daughter of Matthew & Jennifer Bressler
Suzanna was born on 11-27-10

Dante Sergio D'Alessandro
Son of Dante & Nicole D'Alessandro
Dante was born on 12-2-2010

Clare Lucy Hurleman
Daughter of Jason & Lisa Hurleman
Clare was born on 1-27-11

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST COMMUNION CLASS OF 2011 !



*Keri Althouse
Michelle Chi
Chet DePue
Isabella Duddy
Brayden Eberhart
Anton Esterbrook
Jonathon Fallon
Isabella Farina
Jack Feightner*

*Seamus Filoon
Julia Gerhis
John Huber
Grace Kuhn
Nolan Larkin
Claire Mascangcay
Aidan Meyers
Emma Morris*

*Sullivan Motley
Cole Naso
Felicia Nawa
Karla Santillian
James Schreck
Kevin Schroder
Isabel Tranquillo
Camryn Walls
Frances Moser*

Congratulations to these children, who received the Lord in the Sacrament of the Eucharist on Saturday, April 30th. May Jesus, The Bread of Life, continue to bless each child who has come to Him.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Matthew & Kendall Babiarz
and their son, Patrick

Ben & Andrea Loop and their
children, Gwendolyn, Claudine,
Aidan, Henry & Gianna

Ronald & Kristin Miller and their sons,
Toby & Owen

SACRED HEART SENIORS

The June Seniors Meeting will be held on Monday, June 6th at 1 PM in the Chapel. Come and be entertained by the vocals and keyboarding skills of Harry Boyajian followed by the general meeting and refreshments. Join in the fellowship and fun!

SHS WALK FOR ANNUAL FUND

Our students, faculty, parents, grandparents, and friends came out to show their support for SHS on Friday, May 6th, as we proudly walked through our communities! Thank you for all who came and helped with the Walk! It was a glorious sun-filled celebration at Happy Hollow Park!

A special thank you to our picnic sponsors who donated everything we needed to make it a fabulous day: *Berks Packings, Stroehman, Clover Farms, Good's Chips, DeMet's Candies, Berks Fire Water, Target, Giant, Shur Fine, Redner's Markets, Food Lion, West Reading Fire Department, and Café Harmony.*

SVDP—SOUP KITCHEN

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) needs your help! On the weekend of July 2nd and 3rd, SVDP will be preparing and serving the noon meals at the Kennedy House Soup Kitchen. We will need approximately 15 people to set-up, prepare, and serve the meals and clean-up. We will be on-site at Kennedy House from approximately 10 AM till 1 PM each day. If you could help one or both days, please call Jeff Manley at (610) 670-1069 or email jmanley@rmctc.org to reserve a spot. Please call if you have any questions. This is a wonderful opportunity to help with this important SVDP project. Thank You!

SACRED HEART SENIORS 2011 TRIPS

Thursday
June 9th Dutch Apple Theatre
The Drowsy Chaperone
Lunch and Show
Cost: \$60.00

Thursday
Sept. 13th Mohegan Sun Casino
Joey Vincent
Rebate: \$27.00
Free Lunch Buffet
Cost: \$40.00

Friday
Nov. 18th American Music Theatre
Christmas Show
Lunch at Shady Maple
Cost: \$60.00

You don't have to be a senior to sign up for one of the many trips offered throughout the year. One thing you'll always find is that our trips are the least expensive in town.

For reservations call Jim Loeper at (610) 375-2185.

3RD QUARTER HONOR ROLL

HOLY NAME HIGH SCHOOL

DISTINGUISHED HONORS

*Katrina Balatgek
Erik Bjorken
Stephanie Gonzales
Pietro Gaspari
Matthew Napolitano
Devon Pagerly*

*Gabrielle Parisi
Mariselle Parisi
Christopher Potts
Andrew Stanko
Mikayla Stevens
Angelise Stuhl*

FIRST HONORS

*Lauren Adams
Thomas Natole
Steven Nicodemus
Robert Stricek
Elyse Vogel*

SECOND HONORS

*Alexandra Clark
Patrick Clouser
Dillon DeAntonio
Morgan DeAntonio
Mary Kate Duncan
Nicole Marabella
Christopher Warren*

Congratulations! Your Parish Family is proud of your achievements!

ATTENTION SHOPS CUSTOMERS

Summer is here and that means a **NEW SHOPS/SCRIP** selling schedule:

SHOPS sold each weekend at Mass except the July 4th weekend.

SHOPS also sold **Thursday Mornings** from 9 to 11 AM in the SHOPS office in the school.

SCRIP orders place on the following weekends:

June 12th & 25th
July 10th & 24th
August 7th, 21st & 28th

HOPE TO SEE YOU BUYING THIS SUMMER!

It's the easiest way to help raise money for Sacred Heart School!

THANK YOU! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

*Ruth Butler & Deb Bernheiser
Your SHOPS/Scrip Coordinators*

OUR CONDOLENCES TO...

The Calabria Family on the death of,
Frank D. Calabria
4-17-11

The Mathew Family on the death of,
Nidi Mathew
5-7-11

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 3rd SHS 8th Grade Graduation
Wyomissing Graduation

June 5th 4th Annual Sacred Heart
Parish Picnic

June 7th Holy Name Graduation

June 20th-24th Vacation Bible School

October 5th Diocesan Pilgrimage to
Washington, D.C.