

Hall of Fame announces 2009 class

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The Lehigh Valley Basketball Hall of Fame announced its 2009 inductees back on Feb. 19. They will be honored at the Via All-Star Banquet on March 25. This year, there is plenty of Bethlehem flavor to the selections, which include: Traci Cyr, Truman Frey, Ken Lacey and Joseph Silvester.

Traci Cyr

Cyr's career was successful at the high school, college and coaching levels.

"It is a great honor to have been selected into the Lehigh Valley Basketball Hall of Fame," Cyr said. "I have been involved with this all-star game and hall of fame event as a player, coach, and over the past few years, as a volunteer."

Cyr was a member of the Easton class of 1986 and as a senior captain led her team to a 16-11 record, averaging 9.5 points a game. She set the school record for the most steals in a season with 81. Her success led her to the East Penn League all-star team as well as a LARC (Via) all-star.

From 1986-90, Cyr played for the University of Scranton where her teams compiled a record of 96-22. That included a MAC title and third place in the final four in 1986-87. Scranton also won a MAC title in her 1989-90 season. For her career, Cyr scored 517 points, collected 169 rebounds and 204 assists to go with 223 steals. She has the single-season record with 11 steals in a game (Feb. 10, 1988), steals in a season (98) and highest steal average (3.6). In 1990, she was the team MVP in 1990 and the Frank O'Hara Award winner as the best female athlete, as well as a wall of fame inductee in 2002.

Cyr became the head coach at Notre Dame Green Pond in 1990 and remained there through the 2001 season. Her teams were a combined 259-59 (including playoffs), which is tops in the Lehigh Valley area. She coached her team to a school-record 30 wins in 1995 and was a state tournament qualifier in seven of her 11 years at the helm.

One of her highlights was winning a fourth-straight District 11 title with the Crusaders. After taking three in a row at the A level, Notre Dame moved up to the 2A level in 1994-95. The Crusaders were playing Pine Grove in the semis, which coming into the contest was on a roll of its own.

"Pine Grove had won the previous three 2A titles, so one of us was going to four-peat because we were the two favorites," Cyr recalled. "We played Pine Grove in the semifinal game and came back down by six with 2:18 left in the

game. It was an awesome win and we went on win the championship game."

Under Cyr, eight 1,000-point scorers were part of her coaching experiences, along with one 2,000-point scorer.

Cyr is also very familiar with Via and what it stands for, because her 8-year-old son, Luke, has Autism.

"Having a special-needs child of my own, I know how important organizations like Via are to parents and the community," Cyr said. "Joining the amazing individuals already in this hall of fame is truly an honor."

Truman Frey

Frey was a member of the Bethlehem High School class of 1937 where he lettered his junior and senior years. He was first team all-state in 1937.

Frey's extraordinary jumping ability made him a top player in his time.

"He was a great jumper in that era of the center jump," said Barry Frey, one of Truman's five children (four sons and a daughter). "Every time someone scored, there was a jump at center again. It was a big advantage. They didn't score a lot of points, but it wasn't the same game. For his era, he was as good as anyone."

Frey was more than a basketball player, and sports was just a small part of his accomplishments. He had a great community presence in Bethlehem and was also a businessman. He was president of the chamber of commerce and a driving influence in getting Bethlehem named The Christmas City.

He was also chairman and chief talent recruiter for the American Business Club's Eyeglass Fun game from 1948 until his death in 1970. Under his guidance, the Eyeglass Fund game became recognized throughout the state of Pennsylvania and beyond as one of the top charity-exhibition high school events. The two Bethlehem high schools at the time, Bethlehem and Bethlehem Catholic, served as the host teams. The game evolved into a showcase between Bethlehem, a perennial powerhouse, and some of the legendary teams in western Pennsylvania, as well as elsewhere.

The first of these great teams to participate was Palmerton with the Milkvys and then Trenton Catholic. But, the mystique reached its highest points in 1961 and 1962 when Farrell and Uniontown were Bethlehem opponents — both PIAA champions. Bethlehem beat both and cemented its statewide reputation. The hospitality shown to visiting teams was second to none at the time, and the competition it provided

local fans was first class. Later attractions included Catasauqua with the great Larry Miller and the legendary DeMatha Catholic (Washington, D.C.).

After his death, a trophy, the Truman L. Frey Memorial, was established for the winner of the Bethlehem high schools city series.

Frey also ran track and set district records in the broad jump, high jump and 440 relay, and was also an outstanding baseball player.

"This is a thrill for our family. We're very proud, the whole family," Barry said. "We were young when he died ... it's a great thing."

Ken Lacey

Lacey was a member of the Stroudsburg High class of 1996. He scored 1,096 points and collected 647 rebounds in just two varsity seasons.

Lacey led the Mounties to two-straight MVC championships in 1995 and 1996, as well as a District 11 title in 1996. Lacey's team went on to the PIAA Eastern semifinals where they lost to Lower Merion, led by Kobe Bryant.

He was a unanimous first team member of the all-MVC team his junior and senior year.

"I consider it a great honor to be inducted into the Lehigh Valley Hall of Fame," Lacey said. "I've seen the list of accomplished players inducted before me and feel privileged to be among that group. I feel especially proud of being the first from Stroudsburg High to be inducted. I owe a lot to the school, to my teammates, and of course to my coaches, Shawn Thornton and Ed Hagy. Stroudsburg is a school with a great tradition in basketball and it feels great to represent them."

Lacey attended Rider University from 1996-99. He was a three-year starter and a NEC all-freshman member. From 1996-01, he was a member of the Irish National Team and competed in the European Olympic Qualifying tournaments. He was the Irish National Player of the Year in 2001.

Lacey's professional career saw him play for: A.O. Dafni, Greece (1999-2000); Pallacanestro Biella, Italy (2000-2002); Scavolini Pesaro, Italy (2002-2003); Olimpia Milano, Italy (2003-2004); Reggio Emilia, Italy (2004-2005); Virtus Bologna, Italy (2005-2006); Palma de Mallorca, Spain (2006-2007); Olympiacos Larisa and Greece (2007-2008). He retired in 2008.

"Winning our league and district championships and leading Stroudsburg to the elite eight of the PIAA state playoffs for the first time," Lacey said when asked about a career highlight. "In Italy, leading a seventh seeded team to the finals of the Italian Cup and being named one of the top-three



Traci Cyr



Jody Silvester



Truman Frey



Ken Lacey

players for the tournament."

Joseph "Jody" Silvester

Silvester was a member of Bethlehem Catholic class of 1955 where he was a starter his junior and senior years. He was also a high school and Division I NCAA official.

"I was surprised and very happy to be elected to the Lehigh Valley Hall of Fame," Silvester said.

He started his officiating working for his dad in the Bethlehem City League. His interscholastic career included working junior high and junior varsity games and he eventually worked varsity games in all of the leagues. Jody worked all three classes of the state finals. Eventually, he began working Division II and III college games and was then promoted to the Division I level, where he worked for nearly 30 years.

He worked the NCAA Tournament for 22 years, and that included two national championship games, four Final Fours, seven regional finals, along with numerous NIT games and championships. He retired from officiating in 2000.

"The first year, 1979, when I was selected to work the NCAA Tournament," Silvester said of one of his career highlights. "To go to the Final Four in your first year was a thrill for me. I was able to take the whole family out to Utah."

Silvester officiated the Pennsylvania-Michigan State game,

which the Spartans won. He also officiated the consolation game between DePaul and Penn.

"Anybody who says they aren't nervous isn't human," Silvester said about the experience. "But, once the ball went up, I just did what I did all year and didn't change."

Silvester wanted to credit his wife for supporting him through his career.

"There's always someone you have to recognize," Silvester said. "My wife was here herself all those winters and I wanted to thank her."

The Lehigh Valley Hall of Fame inductions will be made at the Via All-Star Classic Banquet, an exciting evening that honors the top basketball players in the greater Lehigh Valley. The Via All-Star Banquet is at Freedom High School on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 6 p.m. (doors open at 5 p.m.). Via Super Saturday, a riveting game of end-to-end, high-spirited basketball, is on March 28, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at Northampton Community College, 3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem.

Tickets, sponsor information and event details for the Via All-Star Basketball Classic, Banquet and Hall of Fame are available online at www.ViaNet.org or by calling 484-893-5389.

The Hall of Fame was established in 1978 and honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to high school basketball in the Lehigh Valley. For a complete listing of inductees, visit www.ViaNet.org.