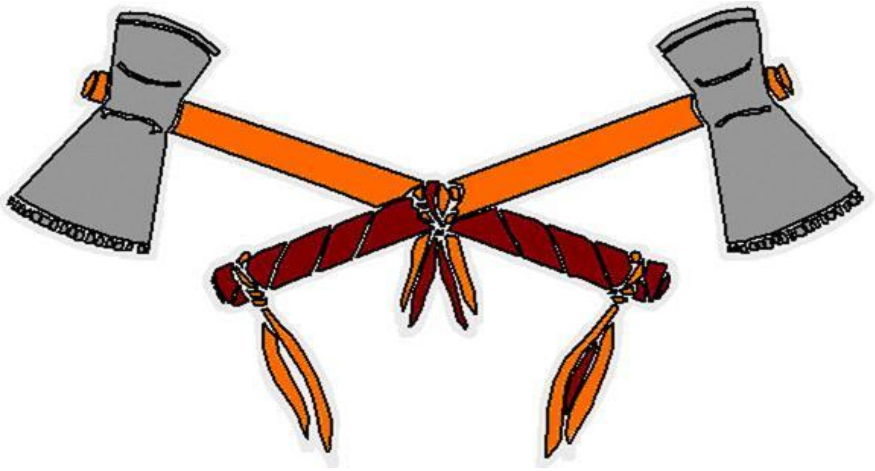
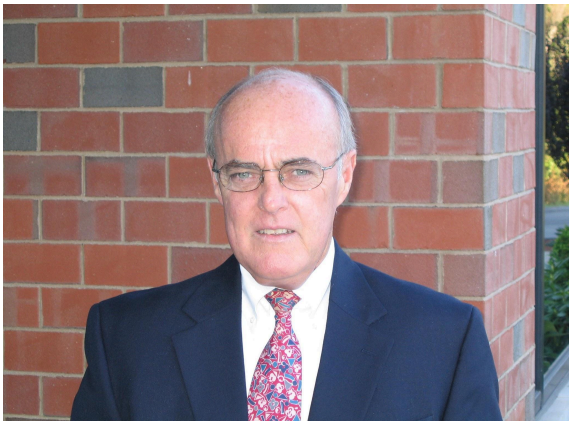


# Saturday, November 28, 2009

# In Memoriam
# Robert E. Melican



Robert E. Melican, inducted into the Algonquin Regional Athletic Hall of fame on November 24, 2007, passed away on Wednesday, October 28, 2009. First hired in the Northborough school system in 1969 as a teacher in the Peaslee School, he was appointed as the superintendent of schools for the Northborough-Southborough Regional District in 1996. During his tenure, he encouraged and promoted the expansion of the Algonquin athletic programs (boys' and girls' lacrosse, co-ed swimming, alpine skiing, boys' volleyball and girls' ice hockey particularly.) Mr. Melican said at the time of his induction-in a written statement-that he always believed that one of my main responsibilities was not only to provide for the academic challenges of our students, but also to provide… many sporting opportunities for the young adults of our two towns."

Moreover, Mr. Melican oversaw several successful building projects. His open and progressive management style promoted innovative curriculum initiatives as well as consensus-building strategic planning. In 2002, the Northborough middle school was re-named in his honor; the Robert E. Melican Middle School. In 2004 he was named superintendent of the year. That same year, Worcester State College conferred its Distinguished Alumni Award upon him for his educational contribution to the greater Worcester community.

In his personal statement in the 2007 Hall of Fame booklet, Mr. Melican said he was honored to be inducted into such a "prestigious group" and ended his remarks by saying that "the coaches, student-athletes, and athletic directors that I have worked with over those years have never let me down." That may have been true, but the same could be said about him. He never let them down. He loved watching the teams play whenever he could and took a personal interest in the athletes and the coaches. It is he who is deserving of thanks.

The Fifth
Algonquin Regional High School
Athletic Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony
Took place on November 24, 2007

Inducted at that time were:

**Sue Allen**
**Evan Berte**
**Dallas Mall**
**Robert E. Melican**
**Beth Minnucci**
**Mike Mocerino**
**Bill Stapleton**
**Andrea Sinerate**

# **Special Thanks**

To all of those responsible
For making this event such a huge success

## The Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Kevin Merchant, Chairman

Fran Whitten
Joe Cummings
Brian Nathan
Chuck Redmond
Dan Derby

## The Athletic Council – Hall of Fame Committee

Heather McDonald, Elana Marks, Hallie Carol, Chairpersons

Aidan Cremin
Kyle McGinnity
Carly O'Connell
Sarah Gwyn
Kevin Carens
Brian Keville
Taylor Henry
Lauren Yung

| | |
|---|---|
| Program Profiles…… | Neil Cronin |
| Program Assembly…… | Susan Baburins |
| Plaques…….. | Crown Trophy |
| Catering……. | Vicki (Lowe's Catering) |
| Cafeteria Staff…….. | Terri Locke & Diane Cofer |
| Beverages…… | T.J. Fluherty of Polar Beverages |
| Sound System……. | Amy Collins |
| Booster Club ……... | Loni Sotir |

| | |
|---|---|
| Decorations ……. | Danielson Florist |
| Music …… | ARHS Jazz Combo |

# Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Saturday, November 28, 2009
1:00pm

## Program

Welcome -- Mr. Francis Whitten III

Remarks – Dr. Charles Gobron, Superintendent of Schools

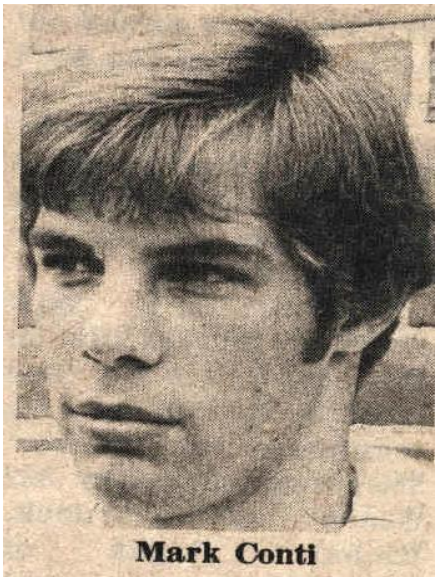
Luncheon

Induction Ceremony – Inductees

*Mark A. Conti*
*Marc Eddy*
*Sarah Levin*
*Jan McCurdy*
*Greg Young*
*State Championship Boys' Gymnastic Team*
*1988 and 1989*

Remarks – Mr. Tom Mead, Principal
Closing - Mr. Francis Whitten III, Director of Athletics

# Mark A. Conti
Southborough


Mark Conti

## Basketball

- Three years varsity, playing forward or center
- Team went to three tournaments in 1973; Clark, Bay State, and Districts

## Football

- Four years, two on varsity as a wide receiver, defensive back, and special teams.
- Member of 1973 undefeated super bowl team, defeating East Longmeadow, 6-2, in the final.
- Team held opponents to a total of 30 points while averaging 24 points a game on offense.
- Caught the winning touchdown pass October 13, 1973, to defeat Milford and keep winning streak alive.
- Midland league Champions, 1973

## Track

- Four years, three on varsity, tri-captain in senior year
- Events – 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash, and high jump
- Leading scorer in 1974
- School record in the 220, 22.3 seconds
- State Class C Champion in 220
- District 3 Champion in 220
- Ranked fifth in the state in the 220
- School record 100-yard dash, 10.1 seconds
- Midland League Champion, 100

Class of 1974 sports teams won the Midland League all-Sport trophy

## Personal Statement

Attending Algonquin Regional High School was an important stepping stone for shaping my future. In the years that followed, I was able to grow as an individual because of the positive successes I experienced during my athletic career at Algonquin. The coaching staff, as well as my teammates, always supported me while I competed in various meets. Being part of a supportive team gave me opportunities to succeed as a leader on and off the track. Confidence and willingness to take on challenges were other characteristics which have contributed to my personal growth. As I reflect on my years at Algonquin, I am proud to have been part of this community by participating in such an impressive athletic program-a program of quality (as it is today and will be for years to come).

# Marc Eddy
# Class of 2001



## Basketball

- Varsity, four years, three as a starter
- Captain, senior year
- Two-time first team All-Star
- Team in the State Semi-Finals, 2000
- Team in State Finals, 2001

## Football

- Four-year varsity starter
- Two-time captain, junior and senior years
- 78 touchdown passes, second all-time in state history
- Three-time first team All-Star
- Shriners' State All-Star Team and game Most Valuable Player
  On offense

## Personal Statement

When I think of Algonquin, I think of great times, great friends, and great sports. Furthermore, I think of Algonquin as my transition into adulthood, academically and athletically. Algonquin is more than just a school. It is community that strives to be the best. People within that community devoted their time, energy, and money to help me make that transition into adulthood. I was lucky enough to have so many generous people dedicate their time on my behalf. I am extremely proud of the Algonquin community.

# Sarah Levin Martin
# Class of 1984
# Southborough



## Basketball

- Varsity, sophomore year

## Spring Track

- Four years
- Placed in top three of every meet in mile, relay, or javelin
- Held district-wide record in two-mile relay

## Indoor Track

- One year
- Qualified for state championship in 1000 meters
- Placed fourth in the district
- Also ran in the 600

## Soccer

- Varsity team, four years, leading scorer
- 23 goals in first fifteen games
- Captain, senior year
- All-State soccer team, 1983-1984
- Team record for three years: 38 victories, 4 losses, and seven ties
- Two years at Holy Cross on partial scholarship; two years at Brown—Ivy League and Division I soccer champions

## Personal Statement

The years spent at Algonquin were the best years of my life-with great memories. At the time soccer was my life. We had a great team of girls, all friends. (Just recently, I reconnected with some of them on Facebook – and am looking forward to our 25th reunion this year.) I also enjoyed running after school during track season with teachers, coaches and other students. I was "at home" at Algonquin Regional High School, well-respected by teachers, coaches, and the administration. My childhood dream was fulfilled when I earned a soccer scholarship to Holy Cross in Worcester—although I left there after two years to play for Brown University, then a nationally-ranked team. After college, I played on a semi-pro soccer team out of Boston. I gave up my cleats in Atlanta just eight years ago. Additionally, I have run three marathons and one ultra-marathon. Last year, I ran up in Loon Mountain in New Hampshire. I gained some of my self-confidence and ability by attending Algonquin – for which I am thankful.

# Jan McCurdy
# Tennis Coach



## Personal History

Mathematics teacher, 1976-2007
Lawrenceville, New Jersey
Tahanto Regional High School, Boylston
Algonquin Regional High School, Northborough

## Tennis Coach for 30 Years

Among her accomplishments are the following:

- Once named Coach of the Year by the METROWEST NEWSPAPER
- Teams have compiled over 420 victories-
    - 1976-1978, Lawrenceville High School, New Jersey
    - 1981 to the present, Algonquin Regional High School
- Division I, Central Massachusetts semi-finalists in 2000, 2004, and 2005
- Division I, Central Massachusetts finalists, 1997, 2004, 2005
- Division I, Central Massachusetts Champions, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2002, 2006 and 2008
- State Champions, 2009, defeating Wellesley High School

## Personal Statement

The girls' tennis teams that I have enjoyed knowing have always represented their school with class, hard work, and sportsmanship. Being associated with the academic and sports communities at Algonquin Regional for thirty years has been my distinct pleasure.

# Gregory Young
# Contributor



- President of the Algonquin Boosters' Club; 1996-2000, overseeing the revival of the organization into well-rounded, functional entity.

- Member of the first Algonquin Hall of Fame committee; Its creation and its first inductions.

- Provided support for various sports; scouted for girls' varsity basketball team for ten years.

- Assistant Coach of junior varsity softball

- Co-chaired "field appreciation day" (a volunteer parent group that cleaned, painted, and repaired athletic facilities).

## Personal Statement

When my wife and I were looking for towns to relocate to—one with a quality school system was at the top of the list. Both of us came from private school backgrounds and preferred to find a top-notch public school for our children for various reasons. Algonquin provided what we consider a private school experience in many ways while offering broader opportunities for exploration in a more diverse environment. Algonquin is a community in which students may pursue various interests—academic, musical, artistic, as well as the purely academic. The athletic program offers many different alternatives, involving both team and individual sports. Both of our children benefited from their experience here, and we are grateful for the quality teachers, coaches and administrators who influenced their lives and their development. I'm glad I was able to contribute to this community and am truly honored to be included in the Algonquin Hall of Fame.

# 1988 Gymnastics Team

Coaches:
Matt Hakala – Head Coach
Ray LaChance – Asst. Coach

Managers:
Jennifer Aaronson
Susan Jenks
Diana Tapper

Gymnasts:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chris Allen | Stuart Backer | Eric Bittel |
| Phil Buchieri | Mark Faucher | Scott Harris – Capt. |
| Mike Jenks | Keith LaChance – Capt. | Tony Sesin |
| Arturo Singer | | |

| | ARHS | Opponent |
|---|---|---|
| Framingham North | 99.80 | 71.30 |
| Andover | 99.40 | 83.00 |
| Londonderry | 112.66 | 103.55 |
| Methuen | 110.00 | 89.30 |
| Lincoln/Sudbury | 109.30 | 107.20 |
| Revere | 120.60 | 85.80 |
| Salem | 115.00 | 106.30 |
| Burlington | 116.00 | 111.75 |
| Winthrop | 102.80 | 90.40 |

# 1989 Gymnastics Team

Coaches:
Matt Hakala – Head Coach
Ray LaChance – Asst. Coach

Managers:
Laura Hohenberger
Susan Jenks

Gymnasts:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Kostis Agiomavritis | Stuart Backer | Jim Coleman |
| Morgan Duffy | Mark Faucher – Capt. | Jason Fitzgerald |
| Mike Jenks | Keith LaChance – Capt. | David McGeough |
| Eric Seiler | Tony Sesin – Capt. | Arturo Singer |
| Kevin VanArsdalen | | |

| | ARHS | Opponent |
|---|---|---|
| Andover | 122.40 | 94.40 |
| Londonderry, NH | 127.00 | 122.40 |
| Winthrop | 110.85 | 99.70 |
| Salem | 111.20 | 107.50 |
| Lincoln-Sudbury | 119.20 | 106.20 |
| Attleboro | 116.30 | 101.00 |
| Revere | 114.15 | 94.80 |
| Reading | 121.30 | 98.20 |
| Burlington | 118.75 | 113.55 |

# Matt Hakala, Head Coach
# Class of 1974
# Northborough

- Gymnastics coach, assisted Bill O'Connor from 1974-1976;
  Head Coach from 1976-1990 (except for one year)
- George Jessup award for Coach of the Year in 1988
- First team other than football and basketball to hold a pep rally
- First team to win a State Championship for Algonquin
- First to win back-to-back State Championships for Algonquin
- First to go undefeated two years in a row
- First team from Central Massachusetts to win the State Gymnastics Championship-with Scott Harris named the senior gymnast of the year in 1988
- First Massachusetts team to beat Londonderry, New Hampshire in over twenty years

## Personal Statement

As the gymnastics coach, I felt that the school was fully supporting the sport—from the student body to the administration. The student-athletes on the team were all remarkably able to train, improve, and compete at the level necessary to win two state championships for Algonquin.

# Ray LaChance, Assistant Coach

## Gymnastics

- 1994 Girls' Gymnastics State Champions, Assistant Coach – inducted into the Algonquin Regional High School Hall of Fame in 2003

## Track and Field

- Assistant Coach, 1970-2003, boys and girls
- Several league titles
- Central Massachusetts Pentathlon (girls), 1989, 1996, 1997, 1998
- Decathlon (boys), team champions – 1991, 1993, 1995, 2002

## Nashoba Regional Athletic Hall of Fame Member

- Inducted in 2009
- Four sports – baseball, basketball, football, and track and field

## Channel 5 Good Sports Hall of Fame

- Inducted in 1985

## Track Camp

- For ages six to fourteen, every June

## Southborough Youth Gymnastics Association

- 26 Years

## Personal Statement

A lot of what I wrote for the 2003 booklet applies to the boys' team. The experience of winning the state title was quite dramatic-to say the least. I had coached many of the boys-and the girls—over the years through the Southborough Youth Gymnastics Association program and to see them succeed and achieve a goal they set out to attain was satisfying (ranking up there with coaching the girls' gymnastic team state championship in 2003, the Decathlon championships, and the girls' Pentathlon titles). I still help out on occasion, assisting the track and field coaches as well as the girls' gymnastic coaches. I've been blessed.

# Keith R. LaChance
# Class of 1989
# Gymnast



## 1988

- Co-captain of 1988 team
- 10-0 dual meet record
- State meet placed 3rd – All Around
- State Team Champions

## 1989

- Tri-captain of 1989 team
- 9-0 dual meet record
- North League All Around Champion
- State meet placed 2nd – All Around
- MIAA Gymnast of the Year
- State Team Champions
- National High School Championships Team Member
    - Finished 13th All-Around
    - Team placed 4th

## Personal Statement

Algonquin was a great high school which provided many positive experiences, opportunities to succeed and friendships which continue to this day. Much appreciation and thanks to Coach Hakala for providing reliable, dedicated leadership which transformed a program from non-existence, to a 1-7 record to a 7-1 record, to back-to-back State Championship titles.

# Eric Bittel
# Class of 1989 - Northborough
# Gymnast

Team won two State Championships

## Personal Statement

Attending Algonquin means more to me now than it did when I attended. I don't know of anything that can prepare a teenager for life, but Algonquin's teachers, administrators, and staff created a safe, supportive, and academically superior experience.

# Kostantinos D. Agiomavritis
# Class of 1991 - Southborough

## Track

- Qualified for districts senior year in the high hurdles
- Captain of team – senior year

## Football

- Captain for first homecoming game against Marlborough
- Outstanding defensive player award at Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Football camp, senior year

## Gymnastics

- Member of the team that won State Championship

## Personal Statement

What I gained from my Algonquin experience was the ability to strive for success, to persevere, and to succeed.

# Morgan W. Duffy
# Class of 1990 – Northborough



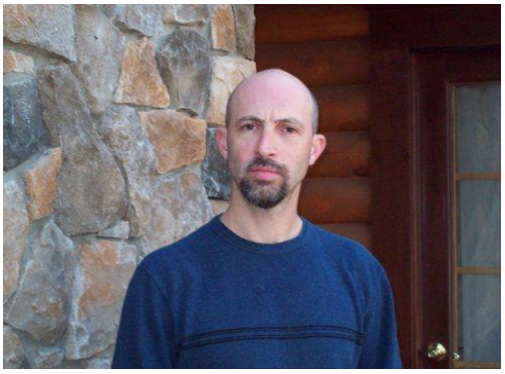
## Gymnast

- Member of the State Championship Team - 1989

## Personal Statement

My time at ARHS seemed like any ordinary high school experience at the time. It would not be until much later in life that I would realize how much it taught me. I look back now realizing that aside from the academics (which were never my forte), it was the social interaction with the various groups and my participation on the gymnastics team that would best prepare me for a career I never even imagined at the time. The base I built through my experience at ARHS has allowed me to build solid friendships wherever I go, the ability to interact with diverse personality types, and has given me the skill set to make my company (Hayden Wood Duffy Insurance Agency, Inc.) what it is today.

# Mark Faucher
# Gymnast



- Team member of the 1988 and 1989 State Gymnastics Champions, the first state titles of any sport in the history of Algonquin.

## Personal Statement

I have never been associated with a finer group of people as those men whom I call teammates and friends. Each one was as different as the next, but together-in competition-these men came together as a unit. I have had the privilege to serve in the Air National Guard for the past nineteen years, and the bond I shared with my teammates of 1988 and 1989 have helped me develop similar bonds in the Air force. For that I am most grateful.

# David McGeough
# Class of 1991
# Gymnast



**1989 Boys' Gymnastic Team Member**

**Personal Statement**

The years I spent at Algonquin are full of great memories. My closes friends today go all the way back to high school years. Many things weren't fully appreciated until I was an adult with a family of my own. Now that I have two boys of my own, I realize what a great experience I had at Algonquin-especially with the gymnastics team. I remember hard workouts, a great group of kids, long bus rides, and fun-filled meets.

# Scott Harris, 1988
# Gymnast



- **Co-captain of the team**
- **Senior gymnast of the year, 1988**

**Personal Statement**

The 1988 boys' gymnastics team had its share of veteran gymnasts as well as some guys that were just interested in the sport and wanted to compete. We really had a good time together, but were also recognized as the team to beat. Taking home Algonquin's first state championship ever—in any sport—was very special. I will always remember practices and competitions we had in the back gym between basketball and wrestling. In my three years on the team, we quickly and quietly built a program that brought many awards to individual gymnasts, our team, and the school. Thanks, Coach Hakala for all your support through the years.

# Susan Jenks
# Manager

- **Susan Jenks Fitzgerald, Manager, 1988 – 1989 teams**

## Stuart Backer
## Gymnast
## 1988 and 1989 Teams



After Algonquin, attended University of Massachusetts, Amherst:

- Competed for two years on men's varsity gymnastic team
- Honored as academic All-American
- Earned bachelor of business administration degree

Currently a technology professional living near Denver, Colorado, with wife Julie and two children (Carly, 6; and Eli, 3)

**Personal Statement**

The team score format of high school gymnastics meant that the state championship title was won by several individual performances by several team members. The championship was really won during practices-at which everyone on the team encouraged and challenged each other to push the envelope of their potential and perform the best he could each day. It is the atmosphere of team practice that I most fondly remember from the years at Algonquin Regional High School-although sharing a gym with the girls' team didn't hurt either.

## Michael Jenks
## Gymnast
## 1988 and 1989 Teams



# In Memoriam

# Dennis Wrenn

Dennis F. Wrenn, the chairman of the fine and performing arts department and director of the school's bands, orchestras, and small ensembles for the past 28 years, passed away February 20, 2009 in Athens, Greece. He was there with his award-winning Algonquin jazz band. Mr. Wren's jazz groups performed many times at the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. His marching bands performed at the school's football games and in community parades.

Additionally, Mr. Wrenn was an avid fan of Algonquin's sports-as well as those of his own children (and their other activities-dance, music, and the arts). Moreover, he was a fine athlete himself-playing well into his adult years whenever he could. Furthermore, he was a dedicated fan of the Boston Bruins and a seasons' ticket holder for over twenty years. Mr. Wrenn was a positive personality—tireless as an educator and a performer himself in local communities, winning many awards for his directorial duties. He loved Algonquin and the students he served.

# In Memoriam

# Mark Fidrych

## Accomplishments

- Major League baseball player, rookie of the year in 1976, Detroit Tigers
- Starting pitcher for the American league in the 1976 All-Star game; 1977 All-Star
- Finished second to Jim Palmer of the Baltimore Orioles (and a member of baseball's Hall of Fame) in 1976 in CY Young Award voting for the best American League pitcher
- Earned run average of 2.34 led the league in 1976
- Competed 24 games for the Tigers that year with six shutouts (fifth in the Majors in 1976)
- On the cover of Sports Illustrated twice, 1977 and 1978
- On the cover of the New York Times Magazine as well as Rolling Stone Magazine (the first athlete to be so honored)
- Articles in People Magazine and the Wall Street Journal
- Featured on ESPN Sports Century Show, biographical sketch, showing the economic impact he had on the city in 1976 and in other cities as well (voted by fans in 2003 in the top five of over 200 sports Century shows they wanted to view)
- Rookie season ranked fifth by ESPN on list of all-time greatest rookie seasons
- Ranked eighth on list of most electrifying athletes of all-time by ESPN, December 9, 2003

## Statement

Mark was a national phenomenon. People accorded him rock star status—cutting their hair like his, naming babies after him, and even collecting his hair after his trips to the barber shop. President Gerald Ford, Frank Sinatra, Elton John and the Beach Boys were among celebrities who sought him out—wanting to meet him. He was successful beyond belief, and he represented our towns and Algonquin well—making the communities of Northborough and Southborough proud of him. Yet in the glory years—1976, the pinnacle of Mark's fame, he was the same approachable kid as he was when he pumped has at Pierce's gas station. He never turned down a request for an autograph. Instead of staying in Detroit—with the prospect of making a lot of money, Mark returned to Northborough (officially retiring from baseball in 1983). He led the annual opening day parade of the local little league, let boy scouts camp out at his farm, and gave away free coloring books to the grade schools. He started as one of us and never forgot us as he shot up to stardom.

After his untimely death last April, hundreds of people paid their respects—some waiting for hours in long lines to do so. Very few were there because of Mark's celebrity status. All seemed to have the same feeling about him as I did: when talking to Mark, he made people feel as though they were celebrities—not him. He gave them his undivided attention and was genuinely interested in them as individuals—even those people he might have known casually. Someone said that if you knew Mark Fidrych, you were his

friend.  Mark's spirit lives today in the hearts and souls of all his friends, all those people who were touched by his genuineness and his zest for living—for enjoying every day.

**Congratulations**

**Sarah!**

**~~Frank Gately~~**

Congratulations
and Best Wishes
To
Jan McCurdy and
Sarah Levin Martin

From
Kay-Lee Bell
Mike and Joan Foley
Neil Cronin

**********

Congratulations to a Wonderful
Tennis Coach
And
A Beautiful Friend and
Colleague

Love,
Jaclyn and Katy Emig
Tom and Diane Emig

Dear Jan,

You have been an inspiration to so many throughout your years at Algonquin, whether it is as a math teacher, a tennis coach, a colleague, or a friend.
Thank you for sharing your talents, expertise, wisdom, friendship, passion, and love with all of us.

Congratulations on your induction into the Algonquin Regional High School 2009 Athletic Hall of Fame!
The honor is well-deserved.

Fondly,
The Fedak Family
Michael, Jean, Anne and Scott

*Algonquin's Math Department*
*wishes to congratulate*

# *Jan McCurdy*




*We are so proud of you!*




Nana, you're "ACES" with us!"
Love,
Catherine & Grace

**********

CONGRATULATIONS
2009 ARHS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

From your friends at

**The Long Horn Steakhouse**

191 Boston Post Road
Marlborough,
508-481-4100

**********

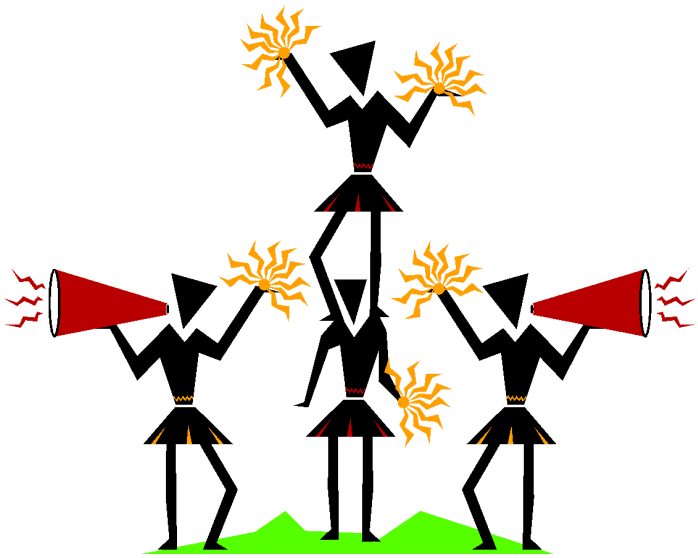
**Christopher Carroll**

**********



**Congratulations to the most recent inductees to the Algonquin Regional High School Hall of Fame!**

**From Northboro/Southboro Pop Warner Program**



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# CONTRATULATIONS

## FROM THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT AT NORTHBORO HOUSE OF PIZZA

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**********

**Congratulations**

The
Northborough
Youth
Basketball
Association

**Congratulations**
To
Mark Conti
ARHS Athletic Hall of Fame
Inductee 2009!!!
To Mark, Susan, Elizabeth,
Emily, & the Whole
"CONTI CLAN"
Wishing you all the very
best! Congratulations
TOS!!

Jim & Trudy Gunning

**Congratulations**
**Sarah!**

**You deserve the honor!**
**Paul Cronin**

**Jan McCurdy**

**Sharing the joy**
**of your achievement!**

**Kristine and Alice**
**Lotoski**