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# Eight named to Mid Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame

By Bruce Wald  
FOR THE TRIBUNE-REVIEW  
Sunday, February 17, 2008

The 2008 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame class is composed of eight individuals, including only the fourth woman ever selected.

Members of the new class are James "Kayo" Adamson, John Hewitt, Gary Hogan, Joe Kurey, Billy Russell, Donna DeMarino Sanft, Robert "Red" Worrell and John Wozniak. Adamson, Worrell and Wozniak will be inducted posthumously.

The 2008 MMVASHOF Hall of Fame Banquet will take place June 13 at the Willow Room Willow Room in the Willowpoint Plaza, Rostraver. The event will begin with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the induction ceremonies at 6:30 p.m.

Sanft, the executive associate athletic director at the University of Pittsburgh, follows Suzy Williams Broadhurst (1999), Ashley Totedo (2004) and Gina Naccarato (2005) as the only females inducted into the hall of fame, which began in 1951 with Stan Musial and Bert Rechichar as its inaugural inductees. Each attendee at this year's banquet will receive a commemorative badge honoring Musial and Rechichar.

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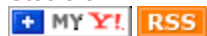
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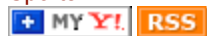
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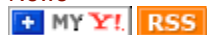
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The Mid Mon Valley Hall of Fame was dormant from 1978 through 1995 before resuming in 1996. There were also no selections made in 1954 and in 1971-72. The 2008 increases the hall of fame membership to 177.

- A 1970 Monessen High School graduate, Sanft was a standout gymnast for the Greyhounds before moving on the University of Pittsburgh, where in 1974 she earned bachelor's and master's degrees in health and physical education. Sanft was a member and three-year captain of the gymnastics team. She was named Pitt's Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 1974. In 1999, Sanft was honored by the Pitt Varsity Letter Club as an Awardee of Distinction, becoming the first female to receive the award.

She then coached the Panthers' gymnastics team for 12 years and from 1974 through 1986 she compiled an 82-50-1 record. Twice she was selected the Eastern Collegiate Coach of the Year and moved into athletic administration at her collegiate alma mater in 1987. Last year she was named a recipient of the Chancellor's Awards for Staff Excellence in service to the university.

- Adamson, a Dunlevy native who died in 1982 at age 77, graduated from California High School in 1926 and became a star quarterback who led the then-called Cubs to the 1925 Mon Valley Football Conference championship. Adamson was the named to the first Mon Valley Conference All-Star Team. Two of his backfield mates were Tom Parkinson and Leslie "Bus" Edwards, who were MMVASHOF inductees in 1959 and 1964 respectively.

While in high school, Adamson, who weighed only 120 pounds during his scholastic days, also participated in amateur boxing, which earned him his nickname. From there, he moved to California State Teacher's College and was the starting

quarterback in 1926 and 1927. After graduating in 1929, Adamson went on to a distinguished professional career while remaining active with the local athletic scene, serving as a referee for countless area football and basketball organizations for more than two decades. In 1969, California State College's board of trustees decided to name the school's new football stadium in his honor and a formal dedication of James H. Adamson Stadium was held on Sept. 15, 1971.

- A 1957 graduate of Bellmar High School, Hewitt was a standout center and linebacker for the Hurricanes. He was an All-Conference selection as a junior and senior and received the 1956-57 Fayette County Athlete of the Year Award. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and earned All-American honors in both football and lacrosse. He was the first Navy player to play in 30 consecutive games and also played on two national championship lacrosse teams. After graduation, he served as an assistant football coach at the academy in 1962 before attending submarine school in New London, Conn. He served in the U.S. Navy for 21 years and received a master's degree in physical oceanography. After retiring from the military, he worked as an engineer in the state of Washington. Now semi-retired, he lives in Washington and works as a mortgage banker.

- Hogan is a 1960 Charleroi High School graduate who quarterbacked the Cougars to a 10-0 record his senior year, culminating in 13-12 victory over Aliquippa in the WPIAL Class AA title game at Pitt Stadium. He had a three-year record of 23-2-1 after becoming the starter at mid-season of his sophomore campaign. He received All-American, All-State, All-WPIAL and All-Mon Valley Conference honors as a senior.

Hogan earned three varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball before continuing his academic and athletic careers at Purdue University, where he was the starting quarterback for two years. He earned his bachelor's degree in industrial management and economics from Purdue in 1964, and is self-employed as the president of Hogan Enterprises Inc. in South Easton, Mass.

- Kurey is a 1958 graduate of Monessen High School, where he was an All-Section basketball player and a PIAA state doubles champion and two-time WPIAL doubles champion with Jim Baker. At Bethany College, he won seven conference championships (singles and doubles) and was captain of the 1962 President's Athletic Conference title team that went 17-1 overall. He had a 52-7 career collegiate record and was inducted into Bethany's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1978. Kurey also served as Bethany's assistant

and head men's tennis coach from 1968 to 1983 while serving in numerous administrative positions.

- Russell starred in football, baseball and track at Donora High School, where he graduated in 1954. He helped the Dragons win the 1953 Big 6 title and WPIAL Class AA football co-championship and won the Mon Valley Conference scoring title with 96 points. He played collegiate football at the University of Detroit, graduating in 1959. Russell later earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Wayne State University in 1970. He was a longtime teacher and principal in Highland Park, Mich., before being named director of Southfield Youth Services. He now lives in Henderson, Nev. He is a nephew of MMVASHOF and Pennsylvania Hall of Fame inductee Deacon Dan Towler.

- A 1957 Centerville High School graduate, Worrell was a four-year scholastic starter in football, basketball, baseball and track. In football he rushed for more than 3,000 yards and scored 376 points while being selected as a Wigman Wisemen and The Sporting News Scholastic All-American in 1956. He was a four-time All-WPIAL football selection and was the WPIAL Player of the Year as both a junior and senior. Worrell also set a state record in the shot put. He attended Penn State University, where he broke all freshman rushing records and helped the Nittany Cubs achieve a 6-0 record.

At age 19 he was electrocuted while helping to erect a TV antenna at his father's home in Denbo; he died on Dec. 22, 1957. Each spring since 1958, a Penn State football player has received the Red Worrell Award for exemplary conduct, loyalty, interest, attitude and improvement.

- Wozniak was a football, basketball, baseball, track and soccer standout at Marion High School, where he graduated in 1942. The Arnold City native was an All-American offensive guard at the University of Alabama and helped the 1945 Crimson Tide win the SEC championship. Alabama and Wozniak concluded a 10-0 season with a 34-14 victory over Southern California in the 1946 Rose Bowl.

A third-round draft choice of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Wozniak played professional football in the All American Football Conference for the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees before becoming a three-time all-star with the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League. A member of the Belle Vernon Area and Saskatchewan Roughriders halls of fame, he later worked as a regional sales representative for Reichold Chemical Co. before his death on Aug. 26, 1982.

Brian Herman, longtime sports editor of the Valley Independent, is chairman of the MMVASHOF selection committee. Other members are Rudy Andabaker, Carl Crawley, Wally Gibbons, Joe Gladys, Bill Kubin, Bap Manzini, Elmo Natali, Ron Paglia, Bob Petriello, Peter "Bud" Roman, Steve Russell, and Reid Smith.

The banquet will once again feature senior scholar-athletes from the eight high schools represented by the inductees: Belle Vernon Area, Brownsville Area, California Area, Charleroi Area, Elizabeth Forward, Monessen, Ringgold and Yough.

Ticket price is \$35; they can be purchased by calling Russell, MMVASHOF general chairman, at 724-258-3823.

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