

BEACON HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

Matt Sheers Class of 2002

Matt Sheers had a truly distinguished tennis career at Beacon High School. After the graduation of former great ann Thefaine, it looked as if Beacon might never have another dominant singles player. Along came Matt Sheers who had an equally impressive career.

Matt earned six Varsity letters (1997-2002) in tennis and was named to the All-League team all six years. His career record stands at 86-27 overall and 77-23 in singles. The 86 wins tied a school record. He played the number one singles spot during his freshman through senior years. He made the finals of the League tournament four times (1999-2002), capturing the title twice. He also placed fifth and sixth in the Class B Sectional Tournament.

What set Matt apart from many outstanding individual players was his dedication to the team as much as to his own game. He cared as much about team results as his own. He was instrumental in the success of the BHS team that won four straight League titles from 1997-2000. These teams put together an impressive 33 match win streak that spanned parts of three seasons. Matt went on to have a successful college career at Wheaton College. He also lettered in soccer while at Beacon.

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Ralph Steffanci Class of 1970

Ralph Steffanci was an outstanding three sport athlete who excelled in football, wrestling and baseball. Ralph is being inducted into the Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a football player at the high school and collegiate levels.

Ralph was the captain of the Beacon baseball and football teams during his junior and senior years. He was also the catcher for the 1968 State Champion Babe Ruth Team.

Ralph was known for his “hard nose” style of football. His hard hitting tackling and devastating blocking abilities earned him All County honors during his senior year. Ralph received a football scholarship to the University of Buffalo, where he played linebacker in their undefeated freshman team. Ralph then transferred to the University of Tulsa. As linebacker for the “Golden Hurricanes”, he earned three varsity letters. During his senior year, Tulsa earned a top 20 ranking.

Ralph eventually went on to teach physical education and coach baseball and football at Beacon High School.

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1998 Baseball Team

The 1998 baseball team completed the regular season with a 13-9 record, earning the eighth seed for the Sectional playoffs. In the first round of the Sectionals, the Bulldogs defeated Fox Lane 13-6. In the quarterfinal round, they upset top seed and state ranked Harrison 7-6. In the semis, number 2 Brewster was the next state ranked opponent to fall as the Bulldogs pulled out a 7-4 victory. In the Section 1 championship, number 3 Nyack was defeated by a 3-2 score at Dutchess Stadium as Joey Carola was named Tournament MVP. After receiving a bye in the first round of the New York State tournament, the Bulldogs defeated Rondout Valley 9-8 in extra innings as Steve Diaz drove in Joey Carola with the winning run in the bottom of the eighth, thus earning their first ever trip to the final four. In the State semi-finals, the Bulldogs lost to eventual-state champion Wantagh 12-6 ending their magical season with an 18-10 record. They finished the season ranked third in the New York State baseball poll, the highest finish ever for a Beacon baseball team. Joey Carola was named to fourth team All New York State.

1998 Team Members

Jason Mojica	Steve Diaz	Josh Mignault
Joey Carola	Steve Rozzi	Wayne Theiss
John Muszkewycz	Tim Heady	Bryan
McDowell		
Robert McDowell	Eric Ramos	Sigfredo Rivera
Joe Randazzo	Ed Pietrowski	Ryan Owen
Vin Palumbo	Peter Robillard	Rafael Cuello
	Josef Walden	

Coaches: Bobby Atwell, Marty Flynn, Jim Johnson, Bill Castaldi