

CYO Marquee

"Serving Mercer County Youth Since 1952"

CYO of Mercer County Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2012-2013

Volume 17 Issue 3

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year FROM the CYO



*Wishing you a wonderful
holiday season and
healthy upcoming year*

CYO BASKETBALL CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

One of the longest running youth basketball leagues in the State is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this season! And 60 years since its inception it remains as strong as ever. This year 62 teams are competing in nine different divisions from Co-ed Pee Wee and Intermediate Divisions for 4-5 and 6-7 year olds to Freshmen, Junior Varsity, and Varsity divisions for third to eighth grade to the boys High School division for Freshmen and Sophomores. CYO has graduated an estimated 45,000 players, had over 7,500 volunteer coaches, and 1,000 officials have refereed our games. Today we remain the top youth basketball league in the Delaware Valley!

It all began in 1952 at Junior 2 School on South Olden Ave. in Trenton before moving to 920 South Broad St. where the old movie theatre underwent extensive renovations and was transformed into a gymnasium. Renovations have continued as needed over the last 30 plus years (including gym floor restoration and

yearly touch up, new scoreboards, painting, and new lights which meet Department of Environmental Protection code) to make it a first class facility and considered by many the best recreational gymnasium in Mercer County. Games are also played at several parish gymnasiums throughout the County as well.

Can you still see a half court shot drop, a buzzer beating lay up, a free throw go swish to end a game, a double OT thriller? They've all happened scores of times in the over 25,000 CYO games that have been played over the last 60 years. What if the walls at 920 South Broad St. could talk? What a story they would tell! They would tell of thrilling games, standing room only crowds, deafening noise, coaching excellence, and even some technical fouls! The old RKO Theatre would show a Hollywood Classic of All Star basketball careers started, tension filled

games coached, and life long friendships built for multiple generations.

Do you remember watching Kate Larkin, Diane Olech, Doug Hice, and Steve Brown play? How could you forget Roy Brooks, John Clancy, Mo Van Horn, and Dave Potash? What would the CYO basketball league have been without Carl Thiel, Mincey Manczak, Monsignor Toomey, and the cheerleaders? Who was a better player Jack Adams or Jim Sweeney? We'll have to defer to Nick Werkman! Can you still smell the popcorn? Who would have won the mythical game the 1956 Immaculate boys vs. the 1960 St. James team? So many memories, so many games, so much fun!

If you would like to purchase a DVD "Remembering 60 years of CYO Basketball" please contact Patrick Hardiman at (609) 585-4280 x 102 or via e-mail at phardiman@cyomercer.org to make arrangements, the cost is \$10.



BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME DINNER AND AWARDS BANQUET

Hundreds packed the Nottingham Ballroom in Hamilton to honor the 18 inductees into the CYO Basketball Hall of Fame! It was the 5th Awards Banquet since the Hall of Fame was created in 2004, shortly after the 50th Anniversary of CYO Basketball in Mercer County. The 18 inductees into the class of 2012, with the 87 former inductees, totaling 105, remain the best of the best to participate in the CYO.

Family, friends, neighbors, former Hall of Fame members' teachers, coaches, teammates, CYO Board and staff came out to support the inductees and the CYO. A great time was had by all of the guests and those who were honored.

The evening allowed so many to be re-connected from days gone by, catch up and share stories of their favorite CYO story and playing days. The CYO unveiled a video commemorating 60 years of CYO basketball with interviews, old pictures, current footage, and stories of history of the CYO, including a look at our Founder, the late Monsignor Leonard Toomey.

The following is a list of the inductees and a brief description of their accomplishments.

Frank Adams, Coach-St. Mary's

Long time head coach of the Boys Varsity team, nicknamed "The Greeks", Frank's teams won many CYO Championships and Tournaments across North Jersey and the Philly area! His teams served as the main feeder to Cathedral High. Frank coached and molded great players like the Adams, Bobiks, and Fesko boys.

Ralph Cray Sr., Coach-Incarnation

Long time head coach of the Boys Varsity and JV teams for a quarter century. He guided four of his teams to undefeated seasons! Ralph was the architect and coach of the famous and successful "Ralph's Raiders" travel teams.

Jennifer Hanlon-Lombardo, Player-St. Stan's

Led St. Stan's to five Tournament, four Small School, and two CYO Playoff Championships from 1987-1991, earning five Tournaments and one CYO Playoff MVP!

Jules "Skip" Harlicka, Player-St. Hedwig's

Began his basketball career for St. Hedwig's which led him to become an All-American at The University of South Carolina and eventually an NBA draft pick (13th overall) of the Atlanta Hawks.

Mike Kasian, Player-Holy Angels

Led Holy Angels to the 1968 St. Anthony's Sending School Championship and CYO Northern Division Championship, earning MVP for both!

Nicole Kasian, Player-OLS

Starred at OLS during the late 90's leading them to the 1999 Large School Championship being named MVP and selected to the CYO Christmas Classic All Tournament Team.

Andrew Kennedy, Player-Cathedral

Played at Cathedral from 1987-1990 when Cathedral was a powerhouse winning the CYO Championship in '88 and '90. Was MVP in '89 and '90.

George Kinczel, Coach-St. Stephen's

Twelve-year Volunteer Coach including the 1964 Coach of the Year after guiding his squad to the Championship!

Andrew Kondash, Referee

Twenty seven-year official who did thousands of games including many Championships during his time.

Mary Kondash, Special Contributor

Long time CYO employee who worked in the Athletic Department as gatekeeper, scorekeeper, Site Supervisor, and Assistant to the 10 Athletic Directors who she worked for. Mary loved the CYO and the basketball program.

Robyn Korchick-Lucchesi, Player-St. Stan's.

Led her team to the 1983 Small School Championship and the Knights of Columbus Tournament Championship, earning MVP of both!

Mike "Spider" Maguire, Player-St. Paul's

A seven season CYO star in the 60's, Spider was named Southern Division MVP in '66 while he led his team to the Playoff Championship.

Sandy Mahon-Terry, Player-OLS

Star player during the late 70's and 1978 League Sportsmanship Award winner.

Bob Malloy, Special Contributor



The CYO's first athletic director, Bob Malloy, shows his plaque after the induction to the Hall of Fame.

Monsignor

Toomey's first hire to serve as the CYO's first Athletic Director from 1962-1969. Malloy shaped the program and was a trailblazer for the next 16 Athletic Directors to follow.

Anthony Nitti, Player-St. James

Led St. James to the 1960 Championship and a 30-1 record, earning league MVP!

Ami Opalski, Player-Holy Angels.

A star from 1989-1992, Ami scored 750 points and a three time All Star selection.

Noel Powell, Player-Sacred Heart.

Played from 1980-1983 when he brought home the Holy Cross and McCorristin Tournament, and CYO MVP award in 1983.

Tracy Quinn, Player-St. Raphael's

A star in the late 1970's and a regular MVP winner and All Tournament selection who went on to play at Holy Cross College.

Also honored was the Mr. and Ms. CYO Award winners from 2010-2012, and they were: Damien Hall, 2011-2012, OLS/St. Anthony's; Lauren McBride 2011-2012, TCA; Karen Prihoda, 2010-2011, St. Greg's; and Malachi Richardson, 2010-2011, St. Raphael's-Holy Angels. The next Basketball Hall of Fame Dinner and Awards Banquet will be in the Fall 2014.

To make a nomination visit our website at www.cyomercer.org and on the bottom left click on the Hall of Fame link, inside of the link you can download a nomination ballot and follow the instructions on where to return it.

If you have any questions concerning the CYO Basketball Hall of Fame, contact Patrick Hardiman at phardiman@cyomercer.org or via e-mail at phardiman@cyomercer.org.

AT RIGHT: Hall of Fame inductees Jennifer Hanlon-Lombardo, left, and Robyn Korchick-Lucchesi, pose for a photo with their former coach Mike Drangula, center.



HALL OF FAME DINNER FUN!



Hall of Fame Dinner guests Sister Margarate Mary Hanlon And Sister Mary Lou Schulas enjoy their evening.



Hall of Fame inductees Mike "Spider" Maguire pose for a picture with his grandchildren in the top left photo. Above, the Nitti family, with inductee Tony, seated on the left, take a minute for a family picture at the banquet. Inductee Tracy Quinn, left photo, shows off her award and uniform at the dinner.

CYO SPORTS ROUND UP

CYO Basketball

(609) 396-8383 x 14.

Congratulations to all of this year's recipients.

The 2012-13 CYO Basketball Season started on Saturday, November 3rd with our Annual Opening Day Mass at the CYO which was celebrated by Father Stanley Krzyston from St. Vincent de Paul. In addition to celebrating the start of our 60th season, we came together at the Mass as a CYO Basketball community to pray for those affected by Hurricane Sandy.

Due to the hurricane and its aftermath, CYO Basketball games were postponed for that weekend, but the season got into full swing the weekend of November 9th.

This year there are a total of 48 teams competing in the 6 leagues that the CYO offers (Girls Freshmen, Boys Freshmen, Girls Junior Varsity, Boys Junior Varsity, Girls Varsity & Boys Varsity) for a total of over 500 games. The schools and parishes that are represented in the CYO Basketball leagues include:

- Incarnation/ St. James
- OLS/St. Anthony's
- St. Ann's
- St. Gregory's
- St. Paul's
- St. Raphael's/ Holy Angels
- Trenton Catholic Academy

Stop by the CYO Center most Friday nights & Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the winter for exciting CYO Basketball action. For schedule information, please contact the CYO at

Scholar-Athletes, Players & Coach of the Year

At the Opening Day Basketball Mass on November 3rd, the CYO recognized the 2011-12 CYO Scholar Athlete Team.

The recipients were selected for their athletic success and participation as well as their academic achievements during the 2011-12 school year. This year's participants were: Lyndsey Adams (St. Raphael's / Holy Angels), Michael Bamford (St. Paul's), Damien Hall (OLS / St. Anthony's), Tom Kimball (St. Mary's), Russell Kirczow (St. Gregory's), Danny Kozlowski (St. Ann's), Lauren McBride (St. Ann's), Patricia Mount (OLS / St. Anthony's), Bryan Renda (St. Raphael's / Holy Angels), Evan Rouze (Trenton Catholic Academy), Kacie Walton (St. Mary's) and Kenzi Whetstone (Trenton Catholic Academy)

In addition the CYO also honored Lauren McBride (St. Ann's & TCA) and Damien Hall (OLS / St. Anthony's) as the Female and Male Athletes of the year for their athletic success during the 2011-12 season.

Also, Ellie Calcagno from St. Gregory's was honored as the 2011-12 CYO Volunteer Coach of the Year for all of her time and dedication that she has put into the track program at St. Gregory's over the years.

Cross Country Meet

On Saturday, October 27th, the Mercer County CYO held their 7th Annual Cross Country Meet at Mercer County Park. This year we had 65 participants that represented the following schools and parishes:

- Incarnation/St. James
- Our Lady of the Angels
- St. Ann's
- St. Gregory's
- St. Paul's
- Trenton Catholic Academy
- Villa Victoria

The length of the course was approximately 1.3 miles and trophies and trophies were handed out to the top finishers in each division.

CROSS COUNTRY WINNERS

GIRLS JV

- 1) Carolyn Maslanka, St. Paul's: 8:09
- 2) Allison Hogan, St. Paul's: 8:46
- 3) Emily Steege, St. Ann's: 8:59

Boys JV

- 1) Nolan Brody, St. Paul's: 7:13
- 2) William Kelliher, St. Paul's: 7:55
- 3) Tyler Kostin, St. Gregory's, 8:04

GIRLS Varsity

- 1) Rebecca Maslanka, St. Paul's: 8:22
- 2) Saja Piaseczny, TCA: 9:12
- 3) Julia Santoro, St. Ann's: 9:28

Boys JV

- 1) Rory Hogan, St. Paul's: 7:13
- 2) Jonathan Torres, TCA: 7:28
- 3) Patrick Nally, St. Ann's, 7:31



CYO South Broad Street Center
 920 South Broad Street
 Trenton, New Jersey 08611
 (609) 396-8383



Ewing Branch
 320 Hollowbrook Drive
 Ewing, NJ 08638
 (609) 883-1560



Yardville Branch
 453 Yardville-Allentown Rd.
 Yardville, New Jersey 08620
 (609) 585-4280



CYO - East State Street Center
 794 E. State St.
 Trenton, NJ 08609
 (609) 989-8143

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HALLOWEEN FUN

Not even a hurricane can dampen the spirits of Ewing CYO Pre-School's children when it comes to Halloween. Despite the fact that the center was closed on Oct. 29-31 due to the storm, Halloween prevailed with Fall Celebrations in all of our classrooms. The children enjoyed special treats donated by the parents and wore special hats that they made themselves. The following week, the children enjoyed "Growing up Great Together under One Big Sky," an inflatable indoor planetarium brought to us by PNC Bank through their "Grow Up Great" incentive. The program, narrated by none other than Big Bird, taught the children all about the sky and stars.

We held our Thanksgiving Feast during lunch on November 15 and before we turn around, Santa Claus will be coming to town!

INNER-GENERATIONAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Trenton Community Music School's award winning early childhood music and movement program, Music for the Very Young (MVY), has partnered with the CYO South Broad Street Pre-School for weekly music class. Additionally, the school runs an inter-generational music program with seniors and pre-schoolers, playfully called Music for the Very Young-at Heart (MVY-AH).

Each week, pre-schoolers from the CYO walk to the neighboring South Ward Senior Center where the weekly MVY music class is shared by the children and the senior citizens. The children enjoy their new "grand-moms and pop-pops", and the seniors never miss an MVY day.

The program has become a favorite for the seniors and the kids, and a great addition to the South Broad Street Pre-School!

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT

The East State Street Center Pre-School received \$10,000 from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development of the Diocese of Trenton.

Broad St. Center's Non-School Hours Enrichment Program (ASP & REC) received the following grants - \$7,500 from Bristol-Myers Squibb; \$5,000 from Roma Bank Community Foundation; and \$33,000 from the City of Trenton's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Broad St. Center's Recreational/Educational Summer Day Camp (REC) received the following grants - \$3,500 from the Prudential Foundation and \$4,000 from PSEG.

Thanks to all of our generous supporters!

HEAVENLY VISIT



On Oct. 19, the preschoolers of CYO - East State Street Center were visited by Father Jakob. Father Jakob talked to the children about how much God loves each one of them. Children should never be afraid because God is always there for them. Father Jakob serves as the Chaplain at Rider University and Notre Dame High School as well as oversees the Diocesan Catholic Campaign for Human Development.