Saint Joseph Academy
SUMMER 2011

Jane Jimenez, ’80
Jane excelled in basketball, softball and tennis. In the 1978-79 basketball season, Jane was named Outstanding Junior-year Jaguar, Most Valuable Player (MVP) on the team, and a Greater Cleveland Catholic Girls Athletic Conference (GCCGAC) All-Star. She was an MVP in the 1979-80 season of the Jaguar tennis team. She and teammate Linda Ensign Guentert ’79 placed third in the state for doubles in tennis in 1979.

Beth was the recipient of the Don Kostell Memorial Endowed Scholarship for Excellence in Athletics in 1998-’99. She participated in basketball, volleyball and track and field, and lettered in all three sports. Beth was the school’s first Ohio state qualifier in track and field. Beth later earned All-American awards at John Carroll University in long jump. She also was a NCAA Division III National Champion at John Carroll.

Maryann Marek. Maryann started as a physical education teacher at SJA in 1979 and spent 18 years coaching volleyball, softball and basketball. Maryann currently is a Guidance Counselor at SJA.

Mary Dienes Bender. Physical education teacher and coach Miss Dienes, as she was known then, taught at SJA from 1961-1974. She was influential in the Girls Athletic Association (GAA), the precursor to inter-scholastic sports at SJA. She passed away in 2009. Her award was accepted by her husband, Larry Bender.

Don Kostell. Don worked at SJA from 1975 until his sudden death in 1997. Through his hard work, volleyball, basketball and softball were established in 1977, followed by tennis the year after. His efforts resulted in the beginning of inter-scholastic sports at SJA. He was the school’s first Athletic Director. His award was accepted by his widow, Ann Murphy Kostell ’81. Their four daughters are all SJA-educated: Rebecca ’08, Mary ‘10, and twins Annie ’13 and Kate ’13.

Linda Ensign Guentert ’79. As a freshman in 1975, Linda pushed to form a tennis team. The tennis team became a reality three years later – Linda’s senior year – and her accomplishments that year included going undefeated against the best tennis teams in Northeast Ohio. She and teammate Jane Jimenez ’80 placed third in the state for doubles in tennis in 1979.

The 2011 Athletic Hall of Fame honorees are:

Six groundbreaking coaches and athletes were honored at a moving banquet and induction ceremony in late April as the first members of the newly created Athletic Hall of Fame. Those honored were teachers Mary Dienes Bender, Don Kostell and Maryann Marek, and alumnae athletes Linda Ensign Guentert ’79, Jane Jimenez ’80 and Beth Grzybowski-Litten ’99.

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(L-R) Beth Grzybowski-Litten ’99, Maryann Marek, Ann Murphy Kostell ’81, Linda Ensign Guentert ’79, Jane Jimenez ’80 and Larry Bender.