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Saint Joseph Academy to Induct Five New Members to Athletic Hall of Fame

CLEVELAND, OH - Saint Joseph Academy is pleased to announce the addition of five new members to the Academy’s Athletic Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame class of 2017 is comprised of Laura Hageman Cobb ’00, Leslie Douglas Frye ’86 (deceased), Caitlin Smith ’05, Alexandra (Alex) Miles Stiffler ’06 and Clare Corrigan Woidke ‘81.

An induction ceremony and dinner will be held on Saturday, April 22, 6-9 p.m. at Saint Joseph Academy. Tickets for the ceremony are now available on the Saint Joseph Academy website (www.sja1890.org).

Laura Hageman Cobb ’00 of Sandusky, Ohio, was a three-sport athlete at Saint Joseph Academy in basketball, softball and volleyball. She was a member of the varsity team her junior and senior seasons and as a senior was named Honorable Mention All-Ohio, First-Team All-District, Team Most Valuable Player and The Plain Dealer Player of the Week for volleyball. Laura continued her volleyball career at Ohio University where she was named the Mid-American Conference (MAC) Player of the Year in 2002 and 2003. As a senior, she was also named the National Player of the Week, The Mid-American Conference (MAC) Tournament MVP and Honorable Mention All-American as she led the Ohio program to the NCAA Tournament for the first time. Laura played professional volleyball in France, Russia and Prague following her graduation from Ohio University.

Leslie Douglas Frye ’86 (deceased) was a three-sport athlete at Saint Joseph Academy as a member of the volleyball, basketball and softball teams. She was a member of the varsity team in each sport for three seasons. Leslie earned the Greater Cleveland Catholic Girls Athletic Conference (GCCGAC) Most Valuable Player Award for basketball in 1986 after earning an all-star selection. After graduating from Saint Joseph Academy, she went on to letter four years in basketball at Kenyon College where she was a team captain her senior season. Leslie had three sisters who also attended Saint Joseph Academy (Leigh Douglas Fox ’87, Stephanie Douglas Gargiulo ’88 and Tobey Douglas Hanna ’94) and now has two nieces at the Academy (Emma Fox ‘18 and Elly Hanna ‘20). Sadly, Leslie passed away in 1998 after a courageous four-year battle with cancer.

Caitlin Smith ’05 of New York, New York played three sports at Saint Joseph Academy; she was a member of the cross country, basketball and track & field teams. She earned ten letters at Saint Joseph Academy (four each in cross country and track & field, and two in basketball). Caitlin was a track state qualifier three times (2002, 2004 and 2005) as a member of the 4x800 relay team. She helped lead the cross country team to a district title, regional runner-up finish and a trip to state in 2004. Caitlin earned All-Ohio honors in track in 2004 and still is the school record holder in the 800 meter run (2:17.59). After graduating from Saint Joseph Academy, she continued her running career at Loyola University Chicago, where she earned All-Horizon League Honors. Caitlin’s mother is also a graduate of Saint Joseph Academy (Celeste Kaloczi Smith ’78).
Alex Miles Stiffler '06 of Rocky River, Ohio, earned eight letters at Saint Joseph Academy as a four-year member of both the cross country and track & field programs. She qualified for state seven out of eight seasons at Saint Joseph Academy as she competed at the state track meet four times and the state cross country meet on three occasions. Alex earned All-District and All-Region honors five times. She helped lead the cross country team to a district and regional title in 2002, along with a fourth-place finish at state. Alex also played an instrumental role in the cross country team’s district title in 2003 and 2004. In track, she was a member of the 4x800 relay team which competed at state all four years. Her cross country time of 18:38 is the third-fastest in school history. Alex is still a member of the school-record holding relays in the 4x800, 4x1600 and the distance medley relay. She continued her running career at the University of Dayton where she earned Atlantic 10 Academic All-Conference Honors four times and was named the cross country rookie of the year in 2006.

Clare Corrigan Woidke ‘81 of Avon Lake, Ohio, was a three-sport athlete during the early years of organized team sports at Saint Joseph Academy. She was a member of the volleyball, basketball and softball programs. Clare played four years of softball, three years of basketball and two years of volleyball. In 1979, she helped lead the Saint Joseph Academy basketball team to the Greater Cleveland Catholic Girls Athletic Conference (GCCGAC) West Division Title. The next year, she was named a conference all-star in basketball. During her senior softball season, she was selected as the GCCGAC League Most Valuable Player (MVP) which marked the first MVP award for any Saint Joseph Academy softball player. She continued her athletic and academic career at Georgetown University where she was a member of the Hoyas’ basketball program. Clare has three sisters who also attended Saint Joseph Academy (Mary Ann Corrigan-Davis ’71, Eileen Corrigan Smoot ’74 and Catherine (Kate) Corrigan Tompkins ’87), a niece who is an alumna (Megan Corrigan Estes ’01) and a niece who is currently attending Saint Joseph Academy (Cecilia Tompkins ’19).

"We are excited to recognize and honor these five women who made such positive and lasting contributions to Jaguar athletics," said Saint Joseph Academy Athletic Director John Manuszak. "This group of inductees spans 25 years and various sports, but they all have been instrumental in the growth and excellence of the Saint Joseph Academy Athletic Program."

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Celebrating its 127th year, Saint Joseph Academy is the only Catholic high school for girls in the City of Cleveland. With a current enrollment of 727 young women, Saint Joseph Academy is rooted in the spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph and works to foster unifying relationships with God and all creation. Each young woman is empowered to achieve academic excellence, and inspired to a life of compassionate leadership and service in a global society. Saint Joseph Academy is located at 3470 Rocky River Drive in Cleveland.