

2024 FARRAGUT HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Presented by



All stories written by Alan Sloan

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Hall's Class of '24



Danielle Spetar Ashley 2001-softball, basketball

An All-state softball outfielder at Farragut, Ashley was a three-time All-District honoree and two-time All-KIL selection. An East Tennessee State University centerfielder, Ashley was Conference Player of the Week for March 18, 2002. In 2003 she was a Second-Team All-Conference selection.

Spetar Ashley

See ASHLEY QUOTES, PHOTOS, Page 4C

Ben Bosse 2005-basketball

An All-state post as a senior in 2004-05 at Farragut, Bosse was KIL leader in blocked shots a junior who was a three-time TSSAA Outstanding Scholastic Award honoree.

Playing at UT, Bosse earned All-SEC Academic Honors twice, then transferred to King University, Bristol, and was a standout post.



Bosse

See BOSSE QUOTES, PHOTOS on Page 4C



Julia Hsu 2010-tennis

A TSSAA doubles champ her junior year in 2009 who was ranked No. 69 in USTA Southern Region for Girls 16 Singles, Hsu never lost a regular season district singles match and was a two-time district champ.

Her stellar academic record earned Hsu a scholarship to MIT in 2010.

Hsu while at FHS

See HSU QUOTES, PHOTOS on Page 4C

Craig Humberd 1989-baseball

An All-state honoree, Humberd finished his Farragut pitching career with a 22-3 record, a 2.11 ERA with one no-hitter. Was KIL and Knoxville Area Baseball Coaches Association Player of the Year as a senior who went on earn a spot on Tennessee Tech's All-Century team.



Humberd

See HUMBERD QUOTES, PHOTOS, Page 3C



Brad Jones 2006-swimming

A four-time All-American, two-time state champion and seven-time KISL champ who held three Southeastern records for 15 years, Jones went on to swim at the University of Iowa as a Big Ten title finalist and NCAA Division I Championship B qualifier finalist.

Jones

See JONES QUOTES, PHOTOS on Page 3C

Dennis Lindsay 1991-2017 soccer coach

Leading Farragut girls soccer to five state runner-up finishes with 447 career wins from 1991 through the 2016 season, his Lady Admirals won 12 region titles. Lindsay also led his girls to five other state tournament appearances while named 2004 State Coach of the Year.



Lindsay while coaching

See LINDSAY QUOTES, PHOTOS, Page 3C



Lori Simerly Propst 2002-volleyball, track, hoops

One of the Knoxville Metro area's top sprinters in the early 2000s helping FHS win a state title in 2000 who also was a key contributor for the FHS volleyball and girls basketball teams, Propst went to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and served in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant intelligence officer for 10 years.

Simerly Propst

See PROPST QUOTES, PHOTOS, Page 2C

Farragut High School Hall of Fame Ceremony

February 10, 2024
5:00pm
FHS Commons

Tickets: \$40
Table of 8: \$300

Inductees:
Ben Bosse
Craig Humberd
Julia Hsu
Brad Jones
Lori Simerly
Melissa "MiMi" Slagle
Danielle Spetar
Danny Vest

Coach:
Dennis Lindsay

Service Award:
Dr. Tom & Kippie Lowry

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Emcee: 'Voice of the Admirals'
Erik Gerhardt, FHS Class of 1988

Mimi Slagle Rust 2005-volleyball

A two-time All-state volleyball honoree and District Co-Player of the Year as a junior and KIL Player of the Year as a senior, Rust helped the Lady Admirals earn the program's first state tournament trip in 2002 while being named KIL Sophomore of the Year.

See RUST PHOTOS, QUOTES on Page 2C



Slagle Rust from FHS days

Danny Vest 1990-football, baseball

Danny Vest was a standout receiver/defensive back — "and I did punt- and kick-returns" — in football, he said. In baseball, Vest was equally versatile as a "shortstop, outfield, pitcher — and I played catcher half of my senior year." He was a key contributor to the Admirals' state runner-up baseball finish in 1988.



Vest

See VEST QUOTES, PHOTOS on Page 2C

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In'Vest'ed in FHS X 2

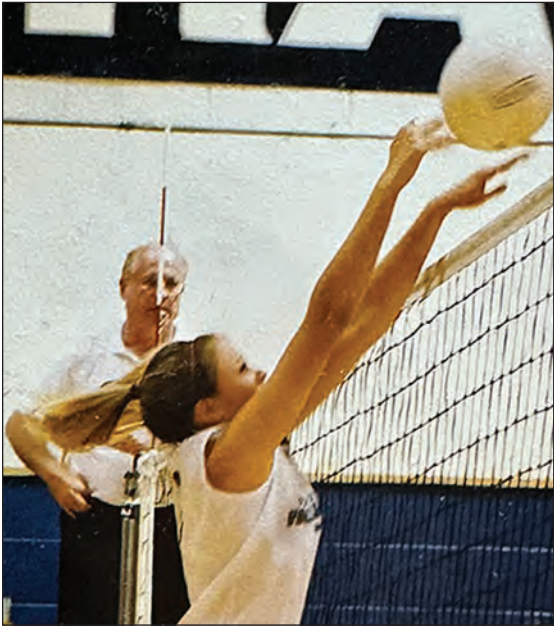
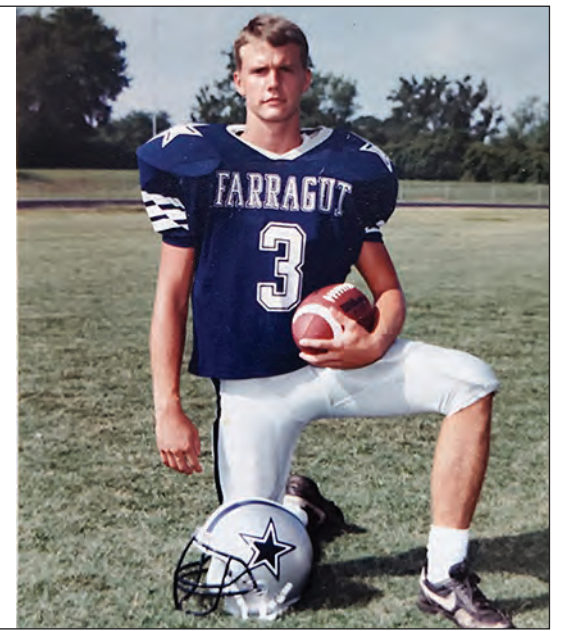
Danny Vest's favorite FHS baseball memory was "being a sophomore and coach (John) Heatherly asking me to come down and to work out with that group, and them allowing me to prove myself to play with those guys on that team," he said.

As for his biggest moment in the 1988 playoffs, "In the district tournament, we were down to South-Doyle and I hit a game-winning home run in the top of the seventh to win that game," said Vest, a starting left fielder that memorable season.

As for football, "it would be the 'no quit' '89 team ... we came back and beat Central in the playoffs," Vest said. "We were down 20-7. That's where Central had Todd Helton. They were loaded."

Individually, "I had one of those games that a kid dreams about," he said. "First play after halftime, I catch a pass for an 80-yard touchdown. And in overtime, we lined up to kick a field goal and ended up beating them 34-28 (because) I threw a fake field-goal pass" for the winning touchdown, he added.

As a waste management specialist at CNS Y-12, Vest and wife, Tina Vest, have two sons: Daniel, 33, and Brandon, 19.



State, 'Hall' special: Rust

"Mimi" Slagle Rust, a star middle hitter for FHS Lady Admirals volleyball, helped break new ground for a program that would, roughly a decade later, earn three straight Division I-AAA state runner-up finishes.

Rust fondly recalls her sophomore season in the fall of 2002.

"We made it to the state tournament for the very first time, like, in volleyball history," said Rust, named KIL Player of the Year as a senior in 2004. "... We just had a lot of fun. Volleyball was so much fun. I think we loved it. We always had great teams."

About being elected to the FHS Hall of Fame, "I was super excited," this FHS Class of 2005 graduate said.

"Volleyball used to be such a big part of my life, and so it's nice to go back and reminisce," she added.

"It was just always something I love doing, so it's nice to remember that almost 20 years later."

A former kindergarten teacher for eight years with Knox County Schools who's now a stay-at-home mom, Rust and her husband, Blake Rust (FHS Class of 2003), have four children: Benson, 7, Britton, 5, Bodie, 3, and Mellie, 1.

Lots of talent, service: Propst

A talented track sprinter, volleyball middle blocker and defensive specialist in basketball, Lori Simerly Propst had one special sports mentor.

In praise of her FHS track and field head coach Kellie Ivens, "She was probably my best memory of Farragut throughout the entire time," Propst said.

"She was there for me academically, athletically. Personally, I think when I think back to Farragut High School, coach Ivens is the face I see," she added.

While contributing to the Division I-AAA girls track & field state champions as a freshman in 2000, Propst also recalls being part of the first FHS volleyball state tourney team her senior season in 2002.

"It was a phenomenal experience to be a part of such a close team. We had a blast," she said about her volleyball years. "There were five of us senior girls, and the underclassmen were just fantastic. ... We were all close friends and having a great time."

(See related photo, information on page 1A)



Congratulations

from
farragutpress

The farragutpress family offers our heartfelt congratulations to all of this year's Farragut High School Hall of Fame inductees!

We applaud your accomplishments.



Total dedication: Lindsay

Jessie Stephens Burkhart, head coach of the FHS varsity soccer girls, was an All-state forward with the Admirals under Denis Lindsay, and later coached under the new Hall of Famer.

"Like, he put everything he had into that program for 29 years," Burkhart said. "Like, you know, from the field to the girls, just making sure that the program was always first to him."

Moreover, "He didn't do anything without thinking about how it would affect the program and how it would affect his kids," she added. "... The selflessness that he had to make sure that everything for the program was the way it needed to be ... he gave so much of himself to all of that."

Though Lindsay never played soccer, "He studied it really hard," Burkhart said. "... He was always trying to educate himself or trying to stay up with the times on how to work and how to cope."

About Lindsay's leading role in turning the Farragut Intermediate School field into what is now the home of FHS soccer, "He put his blood, sweat and tears into that field," Burkhart said. "... He wired the scoreboard and fixed it ... fixed sprinkler leaks. ..."



Jones 'light years' up

Former Aqua Admiral teammate Michael Tabler, also an FHS 2006 grad, remains a close friend of Brad Jones. "I probably spent more time with Brad between the ages of 10 and 15 than probably my family," he said about first meeting Jones as kid swimmers with prestigious Pilot Aquatic Club.

Especially strong in the 50- and 100-meter sprint events, "Brad was kind of the star of the show when we were growing up," Tabler added. "He was always, candidly, just kind of light years ahead of most of the folks in our age group. And it was always really cool to kind of see his success."

Even beyond the pool, "If you could kind of keep up with him in anything, you felt like you were doing pretty good," Tabler said. "He was just a beast. Man, back in the day, just had a lot of size that other folks didn't have kind of early on."

"... From a work ethic standpoint, he's one of the hardest workers I've ever met, and I think that actually has applied to pretty much anything that he's been doing in his life," he added.

A sommelier at Blackberry Farm in the foothills of the Smokies, Jones and his wife, Allison Gras, have one child: Harper, 4.

'Loved it overall:' Humberd

A four-year star pitcher who played first base his senior year at FHS, also earning All-state honors both pitching and at first, Craig Humberd recalled a special season as an Admiral.

"My junior year (1988), we lost in the state championship (game), but making a run to the state championship, we just had a special team, and it was a lot of fun getting to do that at Farragut," Humberd said. "My best friends then, they're still my best friends now. I would call them my best friends in life."

Moreover, "I would say that I had the best baseball coaches you could have. ... (head) coach (John) Heatherly; and then having coach Herky Payne as an assistant was incredible, too," he said.

"I loved my high school experience overall — athletically, academically, community-wise," Humberd added. "I was really involved in Young Life in high school. That was really impactful."

At Tennessee Tech, Humberd fired a no-hitter while second all-time in innings pitched and third in complete games.

An area director of Tri-County Young Life in Anderson, South Carolina, where he has served for 30 years, Humberd and his wife, Kelly Humberd, have one child: Sawyer, 9.



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Mimi Slagle Rust

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Hsu, tennis = MIT

Josh Nelson, Julia Hsu's FHS tennis coach, labeled the new Hall of Famer "an excellent tennis player. She was my No. 1 player for four years."

"She was also an excellent student, and she used her tennis and her academics, and she got into Massachusetts Institute of Technology," he added. "And so, one of her main motivations for playing tennis in high school was really for her college prospects."

"But she also enjoyed the game and worked very hard to be as good as she was."

Hsu, in fact, "was one of the top-ranked players in the state and worked very hard to achieve that," Nelson said. "Her junior year, we were able to pair her with another excellent player, Leslie Roberge, and they were able to win the state championship in 2009."

"She had an outstanding college career as well at MIT." A senior mechanical design engineer in San Diego, Hsu is married to Eric Powers.

All section photos courtesy of Farragut High School

Precious times: Bosse

Remaining close to several ex-FHS teammates, "There's two of us that live in Nashville, Ben Wilson and Kyle Huckins, and then Blake Denny lives in Knoxville still, as does Nolan Nevels," Ben Bosse said. "... I still see Ben and Kyle probably every week. We still play basketball and run around like old men and goof off doing that. So I've been really fortunate to have those guys still be a part of my life years later and still get to enjoy the game with them and that kind of thing."

"But I think as much as anything, it's the memories of just hanging out with those guys and being a really close-knit group to experience all that with and just the support that we received over the years from other students and friends and family," the 6-foot-7 former post added. "That's the highlight as you look back on it; I can really appreciate the fact that my parents (David and Cindy Bosse) were able to come, and my sister (Allison Bosse) played — she was a couple of years behind me. ... Getting to share all that with them."

Owning a business in Nashville called Music City Screens for about two years, Bosse has two sons: Price, 12, and Charlie, 8.



Total FHS journey: Ashley

As for her own athletic experiences at FHS, "I truly just appreciate the coaches and the other friends that helped mold me through those four years," Danielle Spetar Ashley said. "Just the memories that I took away from that are non forgotten. Just a really amazing experience."

"Athletically, I really loved the bus rides with both teams, softball and basketball — just having fun with the team before and after the game and stopping for dinner and sharing the memories of the game, good and bad," she added.

Among her favorite classroom experiences, "I liked my algebra teacher; her name was Brenda McGrath," Ashley said. "She was pretty cool."

As for the total FHS experience, "I really enjoyed going to the football games," she added. "And I loved Senior Night, where we wore the togas and everybody was just kind of there celebrating being seniors and it being our last year."

A teacher at Farragut Primary School for 18 years — 13 in first grade, five in second grade — Ashley and husband, John Ashley, have three children: Jackson, 11, Madelyn, 8, and Lyla, 6.

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