

Hall of Fame Speech by Frank Cady

Earlier this afternoon our family decided to take a walk down the Wall of Fame lane. As I looked at the pictures and plaques on the wall, I thought about the years, the dedication, and the many accomplishments that they represented. I also realized that I would soon take my place on the wall with them. To me, there is no greater honor than to be recognized by your own peers – the teachers, the coaches, the players, the high school where I spent forty years of a very long, rewarding career. I loved teaching English – many of you were in my classes. I loved my tenure as principal, and most of all, I loved coaching softball.

I was blessed with great talent, great parent support, an administration that let me coach, and I really believe that it takes a community to produce champions.

A very special tribute to John Baldwin who was there with me every step of the way. We came home bald from South Carolina in what some people called a badge of courage, but my wife called it a badge of foolishness.

A very special thank you to my wife Joan. She says I was never around and that things haven't changed much that way today. Maybe that is why we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary next month. She did a great job raising the kids. And it means a lot to me to have the kids and grandkids here tonight. To the 1990 Wrestling Team and its state champion Brian Gray and their coaches – my congratulations. I know the time, hard work and dedication, you in a sport that challenges you to the limit. Too bad, Evan, that doctor Walter Ott isn't here to write the story for the underground newspaper. I never knew Max Grossman, but I played slow pitch softball until I was fifty-two so I know what a great sport it is. Your accomplishments and contributions are outstanding.

To the Insley family, Don was a great person and a good friend. Every time I saw him, he would always say, Hey Frank, I have a suggestion. We still use belly button down phrase today when trying to teach the strike zone.

Before I close, I would like the committee to consider one thing. I am a little worried about when Denny Miles will be enshrined in the Wall of Fame. Let's say he is fifty-eight right now – I give him the benefit of the doubt. He and Christy recently adopted a beautiful girl. Denny will be seventy-six when she graduates from high school. Unless she gets a baseball scholarship, four years of college will make it eighty when he retires. If he has to wait five years which is the rule, he will be eighty-five when he is enshrined. Good luck, Denny. I hope the community takes mercy on you.

To conclude, one of my favorite movies is the Pride of the Yankees. I cry every time I see it. At the end, baseball immortal Lou Gherig in his farewell speech at Yankee Stadium makes the comment – I am the luckiest man alive. My circumstances are very different, but when I look back on my family, the grandkids, and my career, I can truly say, I am the luckiest man alive. Thank you.

Wellsville High School
Wall of Fame
Frank Cady

Overall record of 198-39 from 1992-2002. Add in two years with Coach Bud Merrill where we went 45-7, and you have a career record of 243-46.

Seven Sectional titles from 1994- 2002, including five consecutive titles from 1994-1998
Fifty Eight consecutive wins from 1995-1997 - Currently the longest winning streak in New York State, and at the time, fourth longest in the Nation

State Final Four appearance in 2002.

Seven consecutive Express Way Conference Titles with a 41 game winning streak, and 80-9 overall record.

SOME YEARLY COACHING RECORDS

41 – 1 from 1995-96
68 - 2 from 1995-97
87 – 5 from 1993-96
108 – 6 from 1993 – 97
128 – 12 from 1993-98

SEVEN SECTIONAL TITLES WITH FIVE DIFFERENT PITCHERS

1994 - Jessica Regan
1995 - Jessica Regan
1996 - Jill Regan
1997 - Jill Regan
1998 - Katie Thomas
2000 - Jennifer Scutt
2001 - Nicole Whitwood

OTHER ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Olean Times Herald named the Big 30 softball Coach of the Year award in his honor. The plaque is presented each year to the most outstanding softball coach in the Big 30 area. It is called the Frank Cady, Big 30, Coach of the Year Award.
- Was instrumental in bringing the New York State Championships to Section Five Set the standards that changed the way softball was played by other schools in the area and Section Five—The Wellsville System
- Started both the girls and boys tennis teams at Wellsville High School. The boys compiled an 83-20 record from 1965-1973 with unbeaten seasons in 1968 and 1973 The girls in a limited schedule went 13-0 from 1970-73
- Coached varsity basketball at Wellsville High School from 1964-1978, compiling a 148-90 record, seven Steuben County Titles, and one Section V semifinal appearance.

WELLSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TENURE

Taught English from 1962-1984
Assistant Principal from 1984-86

Principal from 1986-1991 (Was recognized for educational excellence, reinstilling school spirit, promoting athletics to prominence, and bringing the community back to the High School)(Remarks made by Pat Regan when named Man of the Year in 1991.

HIGH SCHOOL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Started the current honors program.

Expanded current Advanced Placement Program

Held first outdoor graduation

Held first Senior Scholarship Night

Created Honor Speaker position at graduation

Brought back the senior trip

Brought back the snake dance

Started Hot Dog Day'

FAMILY LIFE

Married Joan McGuirl of Scio in 1958 and will celebrate our 50th anniversary this August. Three children: Michael in Elmira, Shelia in Buffalo, and Julie (currently a member of the Wall of Fame) in Baltimore