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Athletes Inducted into Athletic Alumni Hall of Fame



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coverstory

ATHLETES INDUCTED INTO ATHLETIC ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Honorees discuss how sports changed their life

By Elisa Osegueda

The Beverly Hills Athletic Alumni Association (BHAAA) was founded by Beverly High graduate Steven Fenton to buy new uniforms, equipment and improve the athletic facilities at Beverly High. For the first time in its history, BHAAA will be inducting six alumni athletes to its Hall of Fame. Recipients will be honored at the First Annual Hall of Fame Dinner on Sunday, September 30 at The Beverly Hilton.

Here are their stories:



David Goldman
Class of 1965
Vice-President &
General Counsel,
Executive Car Leasing

David Goldman reached beyond his athletic abilities while at

Beverly High, serving as President of five different organizations on campus. Captain of the Track and Cross-Country teams, All-League and MVP player, Goldman graduated Beverly High in 1965.

Honored to be an inductee of the first BHAAA Hall of Fame, Goldman says high school athletics "was an enriching and formative component of my high school experience and that of my family."

Goldman and his late brother Joel, class of 1970, both competed in track and field & cross country while at Beverly High. Goldman was voted "Outstanding Distance Runner" by the Varsity Club. He was also elected Student Body President, Class President, and served as President of Knights, the ASB leadership and service club.

According to Goldman what he cherishes the most out of his high school athletic experiences are the long lasting relationships formed with his teammates.

"I am still close friends with two team members [Jeff Pop '65 and Jeffrey Goodman '65] with whom I jog regularly and I also see a number of others at alumni runs and other events," said Goldman.

Goldman remembers being mentored by his Coach George Egan, who was at the time coach for both Track and Cross Country. He also remembers Athletic Director Walt Puffer, who later served as principal of Beverly Vista.

When Goldman began running Track and Cross Country he remembers that the sport was barely coming into its own.

Through the years he had the opportunity

to watch his son Max, class of 2006, go through the program and he can say with "certainty that the training is far more professional and better supervised than in my day. Some things never change, however. Distance running still attracts some of the highest academic achievers and most disciplined athletes. But then I'm prejudiced," said Goldman.

After graduation Goldman attended Yale University where he received a B.A. in English literature in 1969, and Stanford Law School receiving a J.D. in 1973. He joined the California Department of Justice as a Deputy Attorney General, specializing in environmental law. His son Max also attends Yale.

After years of private practice, he joined the family business, Executive Car Leasing Company, "where I've had the good fortune to work for the last thirty years with my father Sam Goldman," said Goldman.

Goldman is happy to see the birth of the BHAAA.

"I believe it can be a valuable means of increasing awareness and support for Beverly High's athletic programs, as well as serving as an additional way to raise funds for the Beverly Hills Education Foundation," said Goldman.

Goldman and his wife, Board of Education member Myra Lurie, are supporters of the Beverly Hills' athletics programs, both school and community based.

"I have coached and managed numerous teams and have served as President of our local soccer club. As School Board President, Myra [Lurie] was instrumental in forging a partnership with the city to construct the new artificial turf football field and track at the high school," said Goldman. "When Steven Fenton asked me to join the BHAAA, I was naturally very enthusiastic. I am hopeful that this organization will serve to renew connections with the high school for many alumni and encourage them to support our programs."



Lisa Harris
(Posthumous)
Class of 1989
BHHS Biology and
Physiology Teacher

A Beverly High athletic and scholar legend, Lisa Harris continues to receive accolades after her passing on Sunday, April 8, 2007. Lisa Harris graduated

Beverly High in 1989 and returned to the high school in the 1990's to work as a biology and physiology teacher.

"Lisa loved everything in sports," said former Beverly High Assistant Principal, Tanis Harris, Lisa's mother.

According to Harris, Lisa is the only Beverly High alumni athlete that has won both the athlete of the year award and the scholar award in the same year.

After graduating Beverly High she attended Brown University, where she participated in Varsity cross-country and track for four years. After finishing college she went to Central America and volunteered at a hospital in Costa Rica.

"She was always working with and for others," said Tanis Harris.

When she returned to Beverly Hills a year later, a teacher she had at El Rodeo, Steve Fisher, called Harris and asked if she could be a substitute science teacher because the science teacher at the time had been in an accident.

Harris decided to go back to school and obtained a Master degree from Loyola Marymount University in Biology. Besides teaching Biology and Physiology Harris also coached the cross-country team.

Tanis Harris says the Beverly High athletics department was a marvelous group and does an astonishing job at coaching.

Howard Edelman was Harris' coach since her freshman year at Beverly High.

Tanis Harris believes the creation of the Athletic Alumni Association is a great idea to obtain monetary help for the athletics department.

"Clearly in public education, even as wonderful as Beverly Hills is, there are not sufficient funds to run a quality program," said Tanis Harris. "The [association] is another way to seek [help] specially from the athletic alumni who gained so much from their experience and were part of such a wonderful program."



Lyn Konheim
Class of 1966
Real-estate
Commercial
Developer

Freshman Athlete of the Year Award recipient for football and wrestling Lyn Konheim cemented his athletic career at Beverly High early on. The 1966 graduate was part of the football and

wrestling teams throughout his four years in high school. He played in the Varsity teams for three years and went to CIF. By his senior year Konheim was captain of the football team.

He had a mutual love for both sports. He started playing football his freshman year and in search for the ultimate workout he fell in love with wrestling.

Konheim began playing sports since his elementary years at Hawthorne. "I've always been involved in athletics. I was very fortunate, I loved it."

The Hall of Fame induction brings back many memories for Konheim.

"I am not one for accepting awards. I have always been that way. I am flattered and honored. I congratulate the recipients as well," said Konheim.

Sports for Konheim meant attaining gaining self-confident and learning about your body and yourself. He believes the Beverly High athletic department has "great coaches. They all have a passion and you can see it," said Konheim.

He remembers coaches Dick Keelor and Thomas Gutman, Ben Bushman, and Walt Puffer.

After graduation he went to the Navy Reserve for two years and in 1968 attended USC. Konheim is now a real-estate commercial developer in Beverly Hills, Malibu and Brentwood.

One of the reasons why Konheim accepted the invitation was to stress the importance of raising money and giving back.

Konheim says "the whole purpose in doing this is to hopefully get more people in the community and friends to say 'look it's important to do something about it.'"

He believes in public education and "[although] Beverly High is almost like being in a private school [it's] still not fantastic," said Konheim. "The high school itself, when I saw the gym, it's a shame that it hasn't been fixed up."

Sports continue to play an important role in Konheim's life.

"I still feel very strongly about it today. I love where I am at now but I have very fond memories [of Beverly High]," said Konheim.



Gary Newman
Class of 1972
Chairman of 20th
Century Fox

Beverly High All Star player Gary Newman credits his high school basketball years for many life lessons.

"I am really pleased. I was a good athlete and I enjoyed playing sports but I've always felt that a lot of the success I had in my life I can attribute to lessons I have learned playing the sports," said Newman.

By his sophomore year, Newman was moved to the Varsity basketball team where he played for two and a half seasons.

He believes his coaches, Richard Schreiber, Ben Bushman, Jack Reilly, and Gerald Carpenter were incredibly committed.

"I had coaches who were interested in our development as people as much as players. I

think they realized that they were not coaching kids who were most likely to be having professional sports careers," said Newman. "They understood that our time in high school was about becoming a good as we could become but at the same time about becoming well rounded successful human beings."

"I had coaches who were very supportive and I really felt valued by them."

"It's a nice moment for me to be honored for playing sports and to be able to think about what a positive impact it had on me."

Newman credits sports for his personal development.

"I went from being a gawky freshman to by the time I graduated as a senior I was a far more confident self assure ball player and person."

Newman attended Yale after graduating Beverly High and played for the basketball team for four years.

He is now the Chairman of 20th Century Fox television. He oversees the division of Fox that produces TV series not only the Fox network but for other cable companies. He has been working for Fox for almost 18 years.

Newman agrees that sports played a major role in his life, helping him foster friendships, develop his relationship with his brother and attain self-confidence.

"My relationship with my brother, really began in many ways through sports, said Newman. "My brother [Jason, also an honoree] was a spectacular athlete from the youngest ages."

Newman remembers being a young boy and teaming up with his brother to play against four neighborhood kids.

"I would always look at him and think 'are

you crazy? There are four kids and three of them are older than me. What are you doing to me?" and he would just tell me to get out there and play and so I learned a lot about not being afraid of challenges and a very close bond was cemented by us taking on the neighborhood challenges," said Newman.

Newman says sports are a really important part of the development of young boys and girls.

"Unfortunately, in this day in age there are just limits to the resources that schools have."

He believes BHAAA is doing a great thing by reaching out to athletes who have experienced the challenges and successes at Beverly High. According to Newman it's important to raise funds to "make sure the athletics programs are done properly and for the resources to be first rate."



Jason Newman
Class of 1969
Beverly High Golf Coach

Sports aficionado Jason Newman can play it all. Regardless of the sport, baseball, football, tennis, basketball or golf Newman follows his two passions, athletics and teaching. As CIF First Team and Championship winner Newman graduated Beverly High in 1969.

Newman will be inducted into the BHAAA Hall of Fame along with his brother Gary.

"It's pretty overwhelming. It's clearly an honor and it is also a thrill and exciting for my brother to also be inducted and be given this honor together," said Newman.

Newman graduated from the University of Redlands and by 1976 he was working at Beverly High as assistant coach to Richard Schreiber, while attending USC to obtain his teaching credential.

He originally had plans to attend law school but his plans took an inspirational route when he discovered teaching. By 1982 he was coaching at Beverly High and has been there since. He is currently the boys and girls golf coach, prior to that he coached basketball for 25 years and tennis for 17 years. He also has a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from USC.

"Work" doesn't seem like the appropriate word to describe Newman's job.

"It's going to see your friends, your colleagues, and your students. The great thing about it is that over the 34 years that I have been teaching I can think back to all the kids that I have taught or coached," said Newman.

For each student, according to Newman, there is a great memory.

"The relationship that you develop with your kids when they are kids and then when they become adults, you get to see them move on with their families, it's been very rewarding," said Newman.

Some of Newman's fondest memories as a student at Beverly High come from the friendships formed through sports.

The friendships that "I made through sports are the ones that have lasted because sometimes you succeed together and sometimes you fail, but it's the bonds you form in the preparation during the practice time that help you become a family," said Newman.

After assisting Coach Schreiber in 1976, now as a Varsity Golf Coach Newman has the support of Schreiber as his assistant JV Golf Coach. He has known Schreiber for 42 years.

Newman has also worked with Beverly High Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Carter Paysinger for the past 30 years.

With athletics so close to heart, Newman says the creation of the BHAAA was something needed.

"I think it's fantastic what Steven [Fenton] and David Corwin and some of the guys have done," said Newman.

According to Newman there is a tremendous need to "update and restore the facility and beyond that there is really great potential to not only fundraise but to develop the fraternity aspect of [the organization]."

He believes Fenton has been terrific in executing the creation of the BHAAA.

"I'm really lucky to have a supporting wife who made it possible for me to pursue what I love to do," said Newman. "I feel very fortunate that my parents are alive and will be able to come to the dinner and see my brother and I receive this honor. It's hard to describe that feeling."



Eric Tannenbaum
Class of 1981
Television Producer,
Founder of
Tantamount

Besides dealing with the TV show 'Two and a Half Men,' television producer Eric Tannenbaum dealt with an entire football

team during his Varsity years at Beverly High.

Tannenbaum played Varsity football for three years.

"We had a great team and we played well," said Tannenbaum. "It was fun. It's the time of your life and you make friends and it was a positive time in my life."

According to Tannenbaum, team work and camaraderie are things that cannot be learned in the classroom.

"I learned great life lessons from these guys [coaches]. And it carries on in business and parenting," said Tannenbaum.

Tannenbaum remembers coaches Carter Paysinger, Jack Riley, Bill Stansbury, Ben Bushman and Hank Friedman.

"I had a lot of great coaches. The first guy was named Jack Riley, a big quarterback coach who went on to do college then the NFL. He was a very good guy," said Tannenbaum. "My final head coach was Bill Stansbury, who was there from the beginning. People respected him and liked him and wanted to play for him. He was a great coach."

All coaches have a lot to do with the "shaping of who you are and in teaching you respect and leadership. I wanted to play at a small college and it was very helpful to have learned from them," said Tannenbaum.

After graduating Beverly High, Tannenbaum attended Tufts University and played football there for four years. He obtained a B.A. in Political Science and graduated in 1985.

He believes the creation of BHAAA is fantastic because it will help update the athletics facilities, field and obtain proper uniforms.

"Everyone talked about it and then a guy like Steven Fenton comes along and actually takes charge and does it," said Tannenbaum. "It's tough to raise money, we are all inundated with charities, family, and our everyday, but [Fenton] was smart enough to know that the people who went through the program and cared about it and spent four years there would want the best."

Tannenbaum has been involved in the entertainment industry since he graduated college. He worked for Warner Brother as an executive for many years and then went on to work for Sony Television Studios where he was President. He began producing shows approximately six years ago, including, 'Two and a Half Men' on ABC. Three months ago he started his own production company based out of Sony Television Studios, Tantamount.

Tannenbaum's late grandfather David was Beverly Hills Mayor in the late 1950s. His family was profiled in the Weekly's issue #335 ("Council Kids: Part III").

The goal of BHAAA is to raise \$500,000 to help update the "deplorable conditions of the athletic facilities," said BHAAA Founder Steven Fenton. "I have enlisted the support of fellow alumni, to create BHAAA, to address these issues. Our High School deserves the best."

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