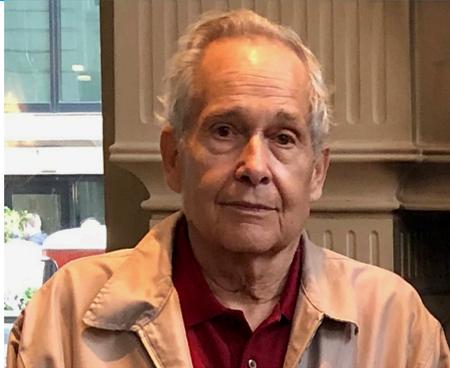


STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION ALUMNI NEWS

In Memory of Gordie Solz

It is difficult to honor one's own father in words, it's never an easy task to capture someone in speech or writing, these frequently fall short of capturing the true essence of a person. We will make an attempt to remember the man who loved his family, his friends and his community. Where to start is the main question, another is how to tell his story without running out of paper.



most notably Arthur's Café. Later on he sold real estate in NE with his brother Tom. He seemed to know pretty much everyone—we always ran into someone he knew whenever we went somewhere with him as kids. He had an I “heart” NE pin for every jacket, and was always proud to tell people he was from Northeast—never say Nordeast around him!

Gordie Solz passed away on September 7, 2020 from a head injury sustained in a fall a few days earlier. Gordie attended Pillsbury and graduated from Edison in 1958. He was proud to be a second-generation Tommie, Art Solz, Sr. was class of 1931 and Irene Solem Solz class of 1933. He was the father of two Edison grads, Kris 1983 and Jeff 1985, he was also an extremely proud grandpa to a fourth generation of Tommies, Alex 2009 and Amie 2014.

Our dad was a Northeaster through and through. He lived NE his entire life, owned businesses in NE,

Giving back to the community was hugely important to him. He learned that value from our grandpa, Art Solz, Sr., who always had a few softballs and bats in the trunk of his car to give away to kids in the neighborhood. When we were in high school, Dad became a “band parent” and spent countless hours chaperoning and raising thousands of dollars to support the Edison High School Marching Band's travels to parades throughout Minnesota, across the US and to Canada.

Cont on Pg. 2....

Reflections on the passing of Rueben Wenzel

This week brought sad news of the passing of Ruben Wenzel, at age 94, due to complications from Covid. I had many great teachers during my years at Edison, but I know I'm not alone in placing Ruben Wenzel at the top of the list.

His reputation preceded him. I remember hearing about the dreaded “Mr. Wenzel” even before I arrived at Edison, so walking into his orderly and quiet classroom for the first time was intimidating. By the time I left Edison, however, I came to know him as yes, exacting and strict, but also as a caring person who was interested in his students' lives outside of the classroom.

A few years ago I had the pleasure of having lunch with Ruben, Niles Schulz and Kevin Reich. Ruben was still as sharp as ever, and he revealed a side of himself that I hadn't seen before—he was very

funny, and he had jokes at the ready. He seemed to particularly enjoy poking fun at my Norwegian heritage! It was a fun meeting, and fascinating to listen to Ruben and Niles reminisce on their teaching careers.

At one point during that lunch, referring to his teaching style, Ruben asked “was I rude?”

Cont on Pg. 2....



The 36th Annual Edison Golf Tournament

As we all know, 2020 has been a year of challenges. Due to the pandemic, The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Department was not allowing golf tournaments for the 2020 golf season. We kept holding out hope that the pandemic would ease up and tournaments would be allowed. But that never happened.



It seemed that there would not be a 2020 tournament. However, thanks to the persistence of John Vandermyde Sr., Bernie Kunza and others, and the cooperation of the Columbia Golf Course Manager, Marc Rymer, a modified format was conceived where we would reserve a block of tee times and then reach out to the ECSF community to fill the tee times. This would allow us to conform to the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation social distancing rules and enjoy the fellowship of the Tommy community, the fresh air, and get some

exercise.

Everything came together on September 21st after about three short weeks of planning. It was a beautiful day. We were able to recruit 17 foursomes with tee times between 9AM and 11:30 with a couple later in the day for teams that couldn't make the earlier tee times.

Thanks to the "Never Give Up" attitude of the ECSF Board and Golf Committee and the spirit of the Tommy

Community, instead of another in a long list of 2020 disappointments, we got a group of Tommies together for a day, and raised some money to help fund scholarships and the many other groups and activities that this foundation supports.

We will soon begin planning for next year's tournament. We are hopeful that we can have a more traditional tournament in 2021. Watch for updates in future editions of this newsletter.

Congratulations to the low score foursome and ECSF Scramble Champions:

Tony Matthes
Laurie Matthes
Doug Rademacher
Michael Fisher

Congratulations to the following hole contest winners:

Women's Longest Drive on #2 - Mary Fran Schwartz
Closest to the pin on #3 - Roger Schwartz
Longest Putt on #9 - Pete Herrig
Longest Drive Men Under 65 on #13 - Mike Fisher
Longest Drive Men, Seniors #14- Bernie Kunza (And his sweet new driver)
Closest to the pin, Second Shot on #18 - Chris Melek

TOMMIE SPIRIT

Solz Memorial, cont...

Dad followed Edison sports teams through the years, regularly attending home football games. He was beyond thrilled when his grandchildren went to Edison. He watched them play football, baseball, softball, soccer and his favorite, hockey. He never missed a game.

We were so fortunate to have had such a wonderful person for our father, Alex and Amie had the best grandpa, Artie, Doug and Tom had the best brother. So many memories, so many stories of growing up northeast, so many lives touched.

The family prefers memorials to ECSF, Solz Family Scholarship Fund.

Wenzel Memorial, cont...

Sometimes I think I was rude." The question surprised me. No, I assured him, he provided something that many of us needed—an example of discipline and elevated standards that better prepared us for college and beyond. He demanded more from us than we were used to, and we are the better for it.

Someday soon I, for one, will be digging out the "Wenzel notebook" that I've saved all these years, and reflect on a teacher that I know had a big impact on many lives. He will be missed.

John Vandermyde Jr.
Class of 1985



Rick Eskola, '73, "My favorite Wenzel quote that he would pound into us: "Procrastination is the thief of time" I still use it as a guide. Very Wise!!!"

Edison Baseball Spring Break - Victim to Covid Travel Troubles

All of us have been affected by the Covid Pandemic. For the Edison Baseball team, it meant cancelling a trip planned two years in advance, a disappointment on its own. However, even more disheartening, is that Coastal Florida Sports Park, the training facility in Florida, isn't refunding the \$18,000 the team prepaid to go on the trip claiming it had been spent on administrative fees. Added to that, Sun Country will not refund the \$14,000 tickets, instead offering credit vouchers.

Coach Bernie Kunza has reached out to the attorney generals in Minnesota and Florida. They've both tried to contact Coastal Florida Sports Park, but so far the company hasn't responded.

The team started a **crowdfunding campaign** to pay for legal fees to recoup their losses. Getting any money returned to pay for the next trip in two years would be a home run.

If you would like to contribute, or offer assistance, please go to: <https://www.4giving.com/donation/288B> or use the envelope enclosed in the newsletter.

Hall of Fame Committee News - Class of 2020

The Hall of Fame Induction Dinner is still on hold due to the Corona Virus outbreak. Hope everybody is staying safe. Our plans are looking toward spring to possibly hold the event. Annliv Bacon (1960), Mike Sedio (1971), Kevin (Yogi) Hanzlik (1972) and Denny McGowen (Staff) will be the individual inductees. Championship teams from 1972, 1973, and 1974 will be honored into the Circle of Champions. A more complete biography on the inductees will follow when we hold the induction dinner.

Wall of Fame Update:

An Email address has been set up edisonhof@gmail.com where pictures and biography information can be sent. Biographies should be no longer than two paragraphs in length and should include high school achievements and post High School achievements and family statement (if you want). You could also send bullet points and I could write the paragraph. Pictures may be tough to duplicate and we will need to just take yearbook pictures to replace those that can't be saved or re-sent to us. A plaque with names and year of induction will replace the larger plaques in the gym with the Touch Pro board being available to see the larger display. Please attempt to reach out ASAP, which will allow me to get a contact for you as we are planning Hall of Fame activities for our 100 year celebration in 2023. Please reach out to help us get this great technology up and running!

SAVE THE DATE!

EDISON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

September 29th thru October 2nd 2022

Please go on the ECSF website and register for our database. We are trying to build a current data base for contacting Alumni. You will be able to register and then make any updates if your contact info changes. Your information *will not* be shared.

edisonsportsfoundation.org OR
edisoncommunitysports@gmail.com

We are planning a social gathering for Thursday, a full day at the School for Homecoming Friday including the Football game, Parade, Marino's dinner, and Variety show in the Auditorium. Saturday we will hold our special evening celebration and finish up with a Pancake breakfast Sunday.

We will post updates as the events are finalized Mark your calendars for this 4 day Extravaganza!

Monday May 3, 2021

Quincy Hall

1325 Quincy Street NE

Niles Schulz Scholarship Dinner

To benefit the Edison Community &
Sports Foundation

More details to follow....

Job Opportunity:

Looking for Tri-Wheel
Operators at Stanley's
Northeast. (Thurs-Sun)
Contact: Lynn Miskowic
612-296-7283

TOMMIE SPIRIT

Edison Football

Dear Edison Alumni,

My name is Jason Knighton-Johnson and I am the Head Football coach for your Tommies football team. As I reflected on my first season as head coach, I thought it was important to share my thoughts on our growth with each of you. Thank you, in advance for allowing me to share.

On top of all the changes this year due to the pandemic, we, at Edison Football, have been doing our best to introduce a culture change into our program. Coming into the season, we had a team of boys with a complex playbook, and a lack of focus on anything outside of wins and losses. In this my first year as Head Coach, I wanted to push the kids out of their comfort zones, helping them to take the steps to recognize what their potential holds beyond high school football. Alongside introducing an entirely new playbook with our power offense, we took the time to reflect on what the previous team culture held as core values. We then looked at how we wanted to change and adapt the image and identity of Edison football. This program at one point helped set the standard for football in the city of Minneapolis, through a focus on hard nosed football and a team first attitude. We introduced this philosophy to our athletes, and they truly bought in. As we made a connection to the past by bringing in alumni to talk with our team, the growth could be seen each day. The kids understood what it meant to be a Tommie and wanted to be a part of the tradition. While we didn't see the success we wanted on the scoreboard, we did see a group of guys pushing harder than they thought they could at the beginning of summer practices. With the on again off again season our program numbers were low, but the kids we had, many of which had to play on both sides of the ball, never stopped fighting.

What has stood out most is the discipline this team has shown on and off the field. With COVID looming over us, our kids took our protocols very seriously. Teams across the state were forced to quarantine, some multiple times, but we as a group never had a shut down, plus we received comments from many community members praising how our kids were following regulations. Moving the start of our season to mid October placed the end of the quarter in the middle of the football season, for the first time first quarter academic performance could potentially lead to loss of eligibility. As a team, we banded together to help those teammates who were struggling and as a team we had zero students pulled off the field for grade issues. On the field, this has been one of the most disciplined teams I have ever worked with. We had 4 out of our 6 games with less than 4 penalties. Over 6 games we had only 3 holding calls on our offensive line, most of which had to play tired from playing both sides of the football. We had 1 procedural penalty for players lining up in the wrong place.

Our overall goal for each athlete was to understand football more than just learning play. To do this we simplified our playbook and focused on a power run game. We had 8 days of practice prior to competition as a result we struggled over our first couple of games running for less than 90 yards in each. But in time, they began to understand the concepts behind our offense, we became a different team. We had multiple 100 yard rushers, including a freshman running back rushing for over 100 yards twice, plus 2 games with multiple athletes running for over 120 yards. Our defense played aggressive but sound defense, keeping us in every game and even stepping up to the challenge of us deciding not to punt this year. Our opponents all commented on the complete change in the performance of our team and praised what we are building. Again our record was not what we wanted but as a coach I believe in focusing on creating student-athletes that understand the work it takes to be successful. The growth of each of our student-athletes proves to our staff that they took major steps forward. As I watched our kids during our last official team practice, the brotherhood we are building became even more apparent. With no more games to play, every athlete showed up to take part, the overwhelming attitude was that they

Cont on Pg 6...



Letter from President Iacarella



Greetings fellow Tommies and friends of Edison,

There only a few moments in one's lifetime when you get a chance to celebrate a very rare event; the American Bicentennial, New Year's Eve 2000, or a 50th wedding anniversary. There was/is a tremendous amount of thought, planning and attention to detail to each one of those events. You want to

make sure that the honoree of the event is getting the proper recognition it deserves and that all associated with the honoree can enjoy in the celebration. We have such an event coming up at Edison. In less than two years is the Centennial Celebration of Edison High School. 100 years of educational service and dedication to Northeast Minneapolis. The celebration will happen on Thursday September 29th, Friday the 30th, Saturday October 1st and Sunday the 2nd, 2022.

The ECSF has the pleasure of throwing this special event, but with this honor comes a large responsibility of making sure everyone's interests and desires are being addressed. We are in the final planning stages for the Centennial Committee and we need input as to who

needs to be notified, what they want to do and see, and how much they can afford. If there is anyone who would like to sponsor an event, please let us know. The more sponsors we have, the more affordable the celebration is for everyone who would like to participate. Also, knowing the amount of money that people would be willing to pay. Obviously, the amounts would vary greatly as per each individual situation; would a \$50 all inclusive amount sound fair to most folks wanting to attend either some or all the events? Please reach out to us on our website to let us know what you think. We will have a listing of all the events, when and where in our next newsletter.

I know with all of us being shut in because of COVID, these last few months has a lot of us going a little crazy for something to look forward to. So, this 100th year celebration should be just what is in order so we all need to start feeling good about ourselves again!

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the ECSF. Remember us in your seasonal giving, we are a tax deductible 501-3c non-profit and all donations go directly to our causes.

Go Tommies!

Mike Iacarella

President

Edison Community and Sports Foundation



Principal Eryn Warne

I have never been a fan of rollercoasters. The anticipatory climbs, the stomach-dropping dips, the sharps twists and turns. I'll stay on the ground, thank you. Maybe it's because I was born and raised on the Great Plains of South Dakota, that I like to see everything laid out in front of me. I prefer miles and miles of unobstructed views to the jolting and surprising path of a rollercoaster. However, the reality of running a school during a pandemic has made it necessary for me to embrace a journey that is more akin to a rollercoaster than my beloved plains.

The climb: We held our breath in June and July as we awaited a decision about the reopening of school. Then, in August, we maneuvered through the development of a whole new way of learning. We made quick decisions and plans. We tried to imagine what could go wrong and what could be better.

The drop: In September we launched online learning for 965 students (50 more students than we were expecting). An exciting free-fall for some; a nauseating plunge for others. Eventually things started to stabilize. We caught our breath.

The twists and turns: In August, Athletic teams started outdoor and indoor practices and games. They played, they stopped to quarantine, they played again, they quarantined again. Recently, the Governor pressed pause on the Fall and Winter seasons. In 4 weeks, we may start again. Or maybe not.

In October, the district started to plan for Phase 3, which would bring some of our students back for in-person learning. We were cautiously optimistic. We made lists, we surveyed staff, we started to map out a plan. Then, COVID numbers in our county jumped. We abandoned plans for Phase 3. Maybe we'll pick them up again in February. Maybe not.

Also in October, the Governor issued an executive order for teachers to have more weekly planning time during distance and hybrid learning. We are happy to implement the order, but it will change the schedule (once again) for our students.

2020 has forced us aboard a rollercoaster, and it hasn't always been a welcome ride. However, our resilience is building. We are learning to navigate discomfort and uncertainty. It's not all bad. In fact, sometimes, as with the most daunting of rollercoasters, it's even kind of fun. Kind of. As always, we thank our alumni for your support of our wild ride.

STAYING CONNECTED BETWEEN THE PAST AND PRESENT

Edison Football cont...

did not want our season to end. If we had not turned the lights off I think they would have stayed to play all night. That bond will last a lifetime, now we must continue to grow the bond of Tommies PRIDE across generations.

I am excited for the growth we have had as a team and very optimistic of where we will go in the future. As we continue to grow, it is important that we help these athletes understand the legacy of Edison athletics. It is our goal to create a program rooted in tradition, a program that connects our present team with our past. The experience of alumni coming to practice and sharing their stories with our kids was an experience that was very meaningful for everyone involved. I would like to grow this program by inviting more of you to take part in connecting with our kids. This will help us to create a future for Edison football that will bring back that #TOMMIESPRIDE. I am so grateful to the entire Edison community for entrusting me with the task of guiding this program. I would love the opportunity to connect with alumni in the near future to gain more knowledge about the programs past to help me plan projects for next season.

I am so grateful to the entire Edison community for entrusting me with the task of guiding this program. Thank you and Tommies PRIDE!!

Coach Jason Knighton-Johnson, jason.knighton-johnson@mpls.k12.mn.us

CONTRIBUTORS CARRYING ON THE TOMMIE SPIRIT!

SUPER STAR

Indeed Brewing Company, Indeed We Can!

TOMMIE LEVEL

Tim Eian, Good Luck the incoming 2020

freshmen and the Edison Volleyball team

Stan Freese, In honor of the Edison Alumni Band

FRIEND OF EDISON

Anonymous, In memory of David Dillon

Ronald Cota

Mary Barrett

John Engstrom

Bonnie Fjelde

Aleda Jacobson, In honor of the Class of 1959

Stuart Leisz, In honor of class of '49 and in memory of Gordy Solz

Kaye Winge, In memory of Kaye (Hanson) Winge

John Vandermyde, in memory of Terry

Krinke, '57 and in memory of Gordy Solz

Delores Zbikowski, In memory of Roger Zbikowski

OTHER

Cindy Bach

David Bakun, in honor of Class of '77

Catherine Ballot, in memory of Robert (Bob) Larson, '67

James Becker, in honor of Class of 1960

Ruby Benson, in memory of Ruth Brooker

Mary Brodin, in memory of Tom Bordin, '57

Jill Constable, in memory of Russ Sawyer, '54

Sandra Decker

Dale Halverson, in memory of Richard (Dick) Ochu

Leann Meservy, in memory of Dede Carlson Buller, '73

Roger Peterson

Tim Resch

Anthony Savage

Tom & Marlene Schonebaum, in memory of Arlene (Nelson) Veldman

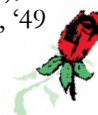
David Spano

Franklin & Helen Yates, in memory of Richard Yates

Bonnie Zipoy, in memory of Bill Zipoy

In Memory Of...

Loretta Bjorkland Helfenstein	Jim Gustason, '52	Beverly Schillinger (Anderson), '48
Thomas Brodin, '57	John Halling, '40	Paul J. Schock
Deane "DeDe" (Carlson) Bullert, '73	Candace Hanf	Sharon K. (Hansen) Schuffenhauer, '60
Jane Burchett, '48	Isabel Hansen, '49	Marian Alice Sievert (Eklund), '49
Agnes (Betty) Burkholder (Schaefer), '49	Thomas Romaine Hoff	Sheila (Smith) Skavnak
Tom Campbell, '44	Terrence (Terry) Krinke, '57	Emily Rose Smith (Sibinski), '52
Marilyn Kay Deering (Melchisedek-Mell), '61	Betty Lundberg (Skirka), '47	Joyce Swanson (Mondeng), '49
Douglas Eaton, 47	Chill Albert Lundgren, '51	Kent Sweasy, '56
John Falldin, '49	Kathleen (Bochet) Maupin, 66	Robert Vanusek, '50
Ray Gaffney, '57	Carrol Ann McCain, '52	Rueben Wenzel, Teacher
	Barbara Jean Rottach	



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 Contact me regarding our Legacy Giving Program _____

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\$ _____ Other	In Honor of: _____
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_____ \$500 Blue	Contributions made to the Edison Community & Sports
_____ \$250 Tommie	Foundation help support this newsletter, EHS athletics/
_____ \$100 Friend of Edison	athletics/activities/community and provide scholarships
_____ \$50	for Edison students who have shown excellence in academics,
_____ \$25	athletics and the arts. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Donate online at www.MplsEdsionAlumni.com

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Edison Community & Sports Foundation is to engage students, staff, alumni and community to direct resources to support programs, facilities and opportunities that advance Edison.



Market Bar-B-Que
 220 NE Lowry Ave
 Electronic gambling (everyday)
 Pull tab machine (everyday)

The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is looking to expand Gambling Operations. If you have contacts with any local establishments please contact our Gambling Manager Lynn Miskowic at 612-296-7283 or email us at EdisonCSF@aol.com



The Howe Daily Kitchen & Bar
 3675 Minnehaha Av S
 Electronic Gambling (Coming soon)
 Pull Tab machine (Coming soon)



Stanley's Northeast Bar Room
 2500 University Ave NE
 Gift card raffle (temp on hold)
 Bingo (temp on hold)
 Electronic gambling (when booth is open)
 Pull tab booth: Mon 4-11:30, Tue-Thur 4-12, Fri 4-12:30, Sat 11-12:30, Sun 11-12
www.stanleysbarroom.com
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Edison Community & Sports Foundation
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The Edison Community & Sports Foundation is made up of 30 Board Directors who volunteer their time and efforts to support Edison High School students and organizations with scholarships and other charitable commitments. It started as a way to honor former teacher/coach and great athlete - Pete Guzy and has become a lasting tribute to his spirit and Edison's alumni's dedication to the school and NE Minneapolis. You can participate with the Foundation at the annual Hall of Fame Night, Distinguished Alumni Award Event, Niles Schulz Scholarship Dinner, Art Solz Memorial Golf Tournament, the Homecoming/Oktoberfest or with a scholarship contribution or Legacy Program.

Board of Director meetings are held at Edison High School on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Changes will be posted on our website www.EdisonSportsFoundation.org
Michael Iacarella, President
Beth Fairley, Vice President
Rick Eskola, Secretary
John Lawson, Treasurer

EDISON COMMUNITY & SPORTS FOUNDATION
WE'RE ON THE WEB WWW.EDISONSPORTSFUNDATION.ORG



Do you have something to share? If you have an item of interest to Edison alumni, please send it to us and we will include it. Interesting historical photos, class reunion announcements, or anything to do with Edison school will be considered.

The ECSF would also like to offer classes the opportunity to utilize our mailing services and non-profit mailing permit. Please contact us for more information.

Send your information to:

Edison Community & Sports Foundation
P. O. Box 68032
Minneapolis, MN 55418