



EAST SUBURBAN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Athletics

**BENET ACADEMY • CARMEL CATHOLIC • JOLIET CATHOLIC • MARIAN CATHOLIC
MARIST • NAZARETH • NOTRE DAME • ST. PATRICK • ST. VIATOR**

ESCC Hall of Fame to induct 12 on April 20

Highlighted by current NBA standout Frank Kaminsky (Benet Academy) and former three-sport Joliet Catholic star and current women's basketball head coach at SIU-Edwardsville Samantha Quigley, the East Suburban Catholic Conference will induct 12 to its Hall of Fame on April 20 at Abbington Banquet Hall in Glen Ellyn.

The resumes of the dozen in the 2023 class are filled with impressive achievements and championships, both on the playing and coaching level. It also includes a handful of mentors who have returned to mold the next generation of ESCC athletes in current coaching roles.

Kaminsky currently plays for the Houston Rockets after earning All-Big 10, All-American and 2015 National Player of the Year honors at Wisconsin. A JCA standout in basketball, softball and volleyball, Quigley is in her second year at SIU-Edwardsville (her third head coaching assignment) after earning two Big East All-Conference selections at DePaul University.

Brilliant female athletes are a huge part of the inductees. Marian Catholic pole vaulter Melissa Gergel earned both an IHSA state championship and an NCAA national championship at the University of Oregon. Saint Viator has a pair of former dual athletes— Loryn King Kromrey was a Lion soccer All-Stater and third in state in cross country before sparking Notre Dame soccer to third- and fourth-place NCAA finishes; Lauren Weber Gaeger helped win a soccer state title for the Lions while also playing basketball, then helped lead Marquette University soccer to the Sweet 16.

On the men's side, basketball rules the honorees, including a pair of Notre Dame athletes who also check in on the coaching side. Benet product Dave Sobolewski followed up prep All-State honors as a three-year starter at Northwestern, while Saint Patrick's Sam Maniscalco spent three years at Bradley (team captain, all-MVC) and one at Illinois after copping All-Area honors for the Shamrocks.

Accomplishments are deep in the Hall of Fame coaching ranks. On the sidelines for 37 years, current Joliet Catholic Assistant AD Dave Douglas has added to tenures in basketball and softball with offensive line coaching duties for 10 Hilltopper state championship football teams.

Current Nazareth AD Mike Manno makes the grade on the diamond, where in 16 campaigns he led alma mater Saint Viator to nine regional championship, four sectional titles and the 2017 IHSA 3A state baseball crown. Twenty-year Marist women's basketball coach Mary Pat Connolly authored more than 450 victories, 14 regional championships and a fourth-place IHSA 4A finish.

Giving back to their roots is a trademark for a couple Notre Dame basketball coaches in the 2023 ESCC Class. Current head coach Kevin Clancy was a key member of the Dons' 1997 Elite Eight squad and a team captain at Loyola University, while current assistant Mark Heidersbach was twice ESCC all-conference and a four-year starter and record-holder at Northeastern Illinois University.



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Three IHSA state champion 2013 anniversary teams will be recognized at the April 20 event as well, including Bishop McNamara women's softball, Joliet Catholic baseball and Marian Catholic women's basketball.

Tickets reservations (\$50) for the 7 p.m. dinner (6 p.m. reception) on April 20 may be made through any of the ESCC school athletic departments and more information and history are also available on the ESCC web site at www.eastsuburbancc.com.

The 16th ESCC Hall of Fame class brings the number of current inductees to 165, representing the current nine member schools and former members Fenwick, Holy Cross, Providence Catholic and Saint Joseph.

More information about the ESCC Hall of Fame or induction dinner may be obtained by contacting Chair Mike Hennessey, Notre Dame High School Athletic Director, at 847-779-8652.