



*Night of Champions
Hall of Fame Induction*

*Orchard Park Little
League*

October 11, 2019

The current Orchard Park Little League board is so excited to be able to present “Night of Champions” to honor those that have founded, developed and cultivated this amazing program. Through the years, thousands of kids have had the opportunity to play the game and cheer at OPLLF. Many of them went on to compete at the high school level and a few select had the opportunity to participate at the college level. Most importantly those kids we encouraged, supported and learned life skills that will shape the rest of their life.

There have been countless hours of work and untold dedication by volunteers in the past, present and we hope the future. The efforts of the special people we call volunteers have made this organization one to be envied. Tonight we honor our “inaugural” class. The first group of outstanding volunteers and players represent key contributors on the field and off. We are proud to be here tonight to pay tribute to their accomplishments on the behalf of the kids of Orchard Park. We look forward to the 20th season and many years to come.

The 2019 OPLLF board

Tonight’s Hall of Fame Inductees

Dave Bonacquisti

Jeff Tundo

Dillon Janca

Jamie Morley

Mike Purtill

Lyn Tighe-Phillips

Dave Janca



Let's Go OP. Let's Go!



A Tribute to Dave Bonacquisti

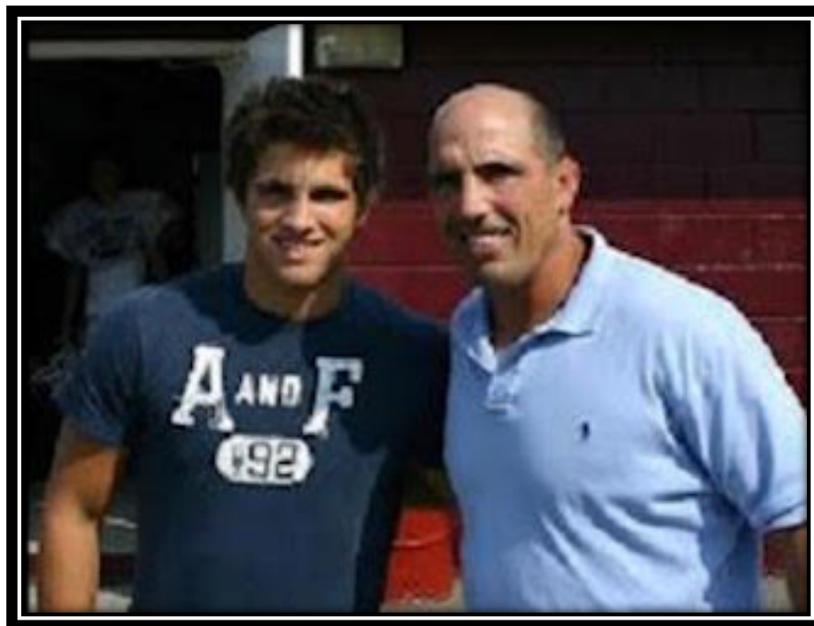
Dave Bonacquisti is a man who has coached and shaped the play and character of thousands of young men starting with both the Orchard Park and now Iroquois football program. Dave is an original founding board member and the longest active board member participating for 17 years in a variety of different roles. He even officiated the first 43 pee wee games. Dave was the Coaching Coordinator for 15 seasons where he hired



and trained over 100 coaches. Dave directed the coaching staff and created the foundation for what an OP coach and a player's experience should be. He always put the kids first, making sure that coaches that didn't do the right things were removed. In that time OPLL developed sound practice standards, offenses and defenses that work for youth football, and game management with the goal to always providing a safe, fun, and structured environment to learn how to play. At the very beginning Dave integrated our program with the high schools right down to the uniforms. Dave's great friend Coach Tundo was on board right away. He also added 3 OPHS kids to the staff to further tie the football community together. He coached concurrently at OPHS & OPLL from 2001- 2011. Dave coached our very first Freshman team to a 6-3 record; that team had 26 players that ended up winning the school's first State Championship that included his son. Dave coached the JV Maroon team to the League Championship in 2007. The first JV title as an organization. Our 2 year record on JV Maroon was 20-2 and 15 players from that team won the Schools 2nd NYS AA championship. Nothing seems to make Dave happier than talking about the success of his players. He was once quoted in the newspaper as trying to describe what makes Orchard Park Little Loop Football so great; Dave Bonacquisti told a story from his time as an assistant coach for Gene Tundo at Orchard Park High School "I stood behind a couple of our kids at a practice," Bonacquisti said. "These kids had been on my team since Little Loop. We used to run reverses on kickoffs. Kevin Collins turned to Okoya Anderson on the sideline and said, 'Remember when we used to reverse those kickoffs?' Okoya goes, 'Yeah, Little Loop's the best.' Since the beginning, Orchard Park Little Loop has seen over 30 of its players go on to play college football; Nine named to an All-Western New York team, three named to First-Team All-State and two named to Second-Team All-State. In addition, 26 of the players on Orchard Park High School's state championship team in 2008 were former Little Loop players. Orchard Park's current UNDEFEATED team has many of the kids Dave coached as well. Dave and Mike encouraged many of the former Little Loop players come back to help coach the next crop of Orchard Park stars. Bonacquisti said this shows the impact the program has on the young players. Dave wanted young Little Loop players to learn good technique and a love for the game. He always stressed to have fun and be a good teammate. A quote from Dave—"We teach them that your number doesn't matter and your position doesn't matter," Bonacquisti said. "What matters is that you're a good teammate and that you're on time. If you just give us everything you got, everything will work out." **Dave, thank you for having "everything work out".**

A Tribute to Jeff Tundo

Jeff Tundo is Connolly Cup winner and two-time State Player of the Year. Dave Bonacquisti remembers what it was like watching a young Tundo show off his talents on the Little Loop field. NO ONE COULD STOP him. Jeff was the best player at OPLL through our first 5 years or so. He remains the most accomplished OPHS & OPLL player ever. He was a bruising running back and great linebacker. On top of that he was a great teammate and a player that respects his coaches, team and opponents; few youth players could dominate a game like Jeff. At Cheektowaga as a Freshman player he scored on a 70 yard run breaking tackles as the Cheektowaga fans cheered because they knew what they were seeing was unique. He went and visited their team the Monday after that game because he was concerned he had injured a Cheektowaga player on that same play; that was the only practice he ever missed at OPLL. Jeff helped lead Orchard Park High School to perhaps the best season in the program's history. The Quakers were the unanimous large school poll champion and advanced to the Class AA state semifinals. Jeff Tundo racked up huge numbers week after week; his signature game was a 368- yard, five-touchdown performance. Tundo's total of 2,260 rushing yards tied him for fourth place on the all-time list with 1994 Connolly Cup winner David Hinson of Jamestown. At the time the 5-10, 185-pound Tundo is a tremendously strong runner who broke countless tackles near the line of scrimmage, made great cuts in the secondary and had the speed to break long runs. Jeff was also 2007 and 2008 NYS Player of the year – Football, All State 2008, All WNY 2007 and 2008 and OPHS all-time record holder yards, touchdowns, kickoff returns.

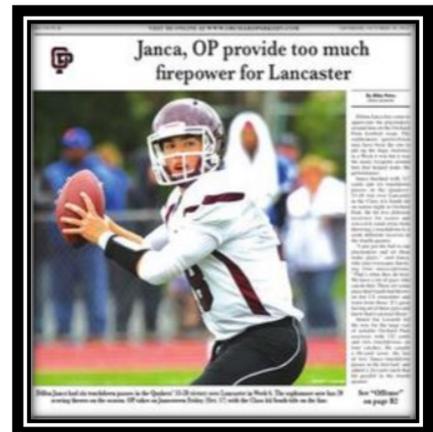




A Tribute to Dillon Janca

Dillon began his career in OPLL and spent many years in the program. In the words of one of our honorees tonight, he was the best little league quarterback they had ever seen!! Dillon is currently in school in Texas where he decided to pursue academics instead of football! Some of his awesome stats from his high school career:

- CAREER - 6,417 passing yards, 61 passing TD's, 20 rushing TD's, 81 Total TD's
- CAREER - Third place on the all-time WNY passing yardage list
- 2016 - WGRZ-TV Class AA First Team QB
- 2016 - All-Bee First Team QB (as voted by Buffalo area coaches)
- 2016 - All-WNY Academic Football Team
- 2016 - Ron Jaworski Award for WNY Outstanding Quarterbacks
- 2016 - Class AA South Co-Offensive Player of the Year
- 2015 - WNY 1st Team All-League QB, Class AA - Offensive Player of the Year
- 2015 - Offensive Player of the Year - WGR Kiss 98.5 High School Football Program



A Tribute to Jamie Morley



Jamie started his coaching career with OPLLF in 2005 and has coached at every level. He coached 3 years for pee wee, Coached Freshman from 2008 until 2012, Moved to JV for two years 2013 and 2014 moved to Varsity in 2015. He was the co-head coach for JV white with Dave Bertola 2016. He went on to coach Hamburg Varsity in 2017 and 2018. Jamie's coaching career is impressive not only in the number of years but also in winning record. He Won the Championship for OP: Freshman 2008, Freshman 2012 and JV in 2014 and in 2017-2018 for Hamburg Varsity. Jamie not only coached for OP but was a board member from 2010-2016. He was Commissioner from 2014-2016 for Empire West. He also took on the job as the equipment manager for 7 years... 2010-2016. Jamie won the Commissioner Cup in 2014 and he Won the Simon Manka award given to Board member 2010



A Tribute to Mike Purtil

Mike Purtil is one of the founding fathers of OPLLF. In 1999, Simon Manka reached out to Mike, asking for help in starting a Youth Football organization in Orchard Park. An original Board member, Mike worked tirelessly for 11 years, building the organization into one of the premiere youth football organizations in the area, which still holds true today. Mike held the position of President for several years. Mike also was the original varsity head coach and held that position for 9 years. Mike and his wife Theresa are the proud parents of 2 former OPLLF Football Players and 2 former OPLLF Cheerleaders. Mike is very proud of how this program has grown and continues to be one of the top Youth Football and cheerleading organizations in the area.



A Tribute to Lyn Phillips

If you know Lyn Phillips then you know that she is committed to helping our community. She is currently involved with the Snow Bowl which benefits the Special Olympics on the first only all girls flag football team "Kiss My Pass", She is cofounder of the 501c not for profit charity, Comforting Hugs Foundation which helps children and their families throughout Western New York living with cancer, long term illnesses and disabilities. Luckily for us, her priority for 12 years was the commitment to the football players and cheerleaders of Orchard Park. Lyn started her career at OPLLF as a cheer mom on the sidelines and was immediately recognized by the coaches and board members as someone who would be a huge asset to the program and to the children of Orchard Park. Lyn went on to be the team manager of her daughter's cheer squad and then progressed to assistant cheerleading



coach. Within two years she was appointed Cheerleading Coordinator and to the Board of Directors of Orchard Park Little Loop and our League, Empire West Youth Football and Cheerleading, Inc. where she stayed for 10 years helping to direct the future of the Organization. She grew the cheer program to 100 plus cheerleaders and 7 teams. Lyn was a winner of the OPLLF Simon Manka Award in recognition for her dedication, service and commitment. For 3 years Lyn served as Vice President of our League Empire West Cheerleading and then for 3 years as President. Lyn was also a winner of the Coordinators Cup chosen by her peers in recognition for outstanding service to the Empire West Youth Football and Cheerleading Program. Lyn is also responsible for many of the people who currently run OPLLF. We are proud to introduce LYN as a member of the inaugural Hall of Fame.

A Tribute to Dave Janca

When you talk to anyone about Dave Janca they will mention his humility. Everyone I spoke to when we discussed our honorees' contributions to the organization started their conversation with this characterization. Humility is defined as someone who spends their time taking care of others and Dave has taken care of the past, present and future of OPLLF. Dave's contribution to OPLLF is immeasurable. Dave was a



Maroon coach for numerous years, a 15 year plus Board member, a Simon Manka award winner and an unending benefactor to Orchard Park Little League. Dave actually striped our fields and set up our fields for the peewee games for probably 10 years... he was the first person out there putting up the ropes putting up the cones in the markers on top of everything else. While he was doing all of this he cultivating Valuecentric, a successful Orchard Park business he started in 2002. The relentless pursuit that Mike Purtill and Simon Manka fought when they started this league to find someplace to play for the youth of Orchard Park was continued by Dave and has gone on for years. In 2015 we were able to name our new football field Dave Janca Field to honor his time and commitment to the long term success to this league. The sign finally went up two years later.... And will return next year when the new field opens again. Dave continues to be our liaison with the town despite spending a substantial time out of town, advocating for the league with town officials. The road has been paved with bumps; Dave and Dave Zarbo have led every step of the way to ensure kids of the future not only have a place to play, but a first class place to play. We look forward to returning to Brush Mountain Park Dave Janca field next year and being able to utilize a beautiful new multi-function announcer's booth.



Sponsors



STATE FARM[®] INSURANCE AGENT

John Mouw

OFFICE HOURS

24/7 Service
After hours appointments
8:30am-5:00pm



4229 N Buffalo

Orchard Park, NY 14127-2421



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Putting Faith in Our Future † PRE K - 8TH GRADE