Bishop Fallon High School/Holy Angles Collegiate Institute
2019 Hall Of Fame Nomination

Franklin D. Ruggiero

General.

- Born: May 16, 1950; Died: May 18, 1999
- Father, Al (former BFHS Football Coach) and Joy
- Grew up on Schiller St., In Lovejoy area of Buffalo
- Three brothers Alphonse, Michael and Paul, and two sisters, Joyanne & Gloria
- Married his childhood sweet heart, Sandy Daugherty
- Two children
    - Kevin Ruggiero (Army Ranger veteran, Afghanistan campaign, 2010)
    - Kelly Schweitzer

Education.

- PS 43 (where his Dad was the Principal)
- BFHS, 1964 - 1968
- Syracuse University, 1968-1972, BA Education (Full Athletic Scholarship)
- Villanova University, 1975, MA Education

Athletic Career & Accomplishments.

- BFHS
  Football
    - Starting Varsity QB, 1965, 1966 & 1967
    - All-Catholic - Junior ('66) and Senior ('67)
    - Courier Express Burke League All-Stars QB, 1967

  Basketball
    - JV, 1964; Varsity Center, 1965 - 1968
- Syracuse University
    - QB, Back-up 1968-1971
    - Starting QB, 1971 under Coach Ben Swartzwalder
    - Career Highlight – led 63-0 win over Holy Cross, Oct 1971

Work Career.

- Jordan Elbridge High School (near Syracuse), 1972-1974 & 1975-1985; History Teacher, Assistant & Head Football Coach
    - Twice 'Coach of the Year' – 1979 & 1980
- Cicero North Syracuse, 1985-1988, History Teacher, Football Coach & Athletic Director
- Onondaga Central School, 1988-1989; Vice Principal & Athletic Director
- Jefferson Middle School, Jamestown, 1989-1993; Principal
- North Tonawanda High School, 1993-1999, Principal

Bishop Fallon High School/Holy Angles Collegiate Institute
2019 Hall Of Fame Nomination

Franklin D. Ruggiero

Nomination Summary.

On behalf of multiple members of the Bishop Fallon High School (BFHS) Class of 1968, we are submitting the nomination of Franklin (Frank) D. Ruggiero ('68) for consideration to the 2019 Bishop Fallon High School/Holy Angles Collegiate Institute Hall of Fame.

There are a number of reasons that Frank Ruggiero's nomination is deserving of the Hall of Fame Committee's attention. Throughout Frank's 49 years, he demonstrated that he was a leader for, and a steward of, anyone he came in contact with, especially young people.

Frank was also a dedicated husband and father. With his wife Sandy, they created a family that embodies his spirit, character and energy.

His remarkable career as an educator and coach was shaped by his father, Al Sr., who was Principal at PS 43 grammar school in Buffalo where Frank attended, and who also coached Frank during his record breaking Senior year at Bishop Fallon.

Frank's Father coached football at Fallon starting in 1954, and throughout his dad's coaching career at Fallon, Frank was Bishop Fallon's biggest fan - attending every Flyer football game starting at the age of five, until he became a starting member of the team. He revered Fallon players like Charlie Tedesco and Pat Broderick whose football heroics he would match, and some might say he eclipsed.

He was exposed to some remarkable priests, all who had an immense influence on his life. There were many, and included Fr. Rheault (sp), Fr. Frank, Fr. Curly and Fr. O'Leary - all who were constant guests at Ruggiero dinners and summer visits on the lake.

Frank was an accomplished athlete at BFHS where he was the Varsity QB, in his Sophomore, Junior and Senior years. Frank was an exceptional passer and runner, garnering All Catholic and All Western New York honors.

In addition to football, Frank was an outstanding basketball player, playing Center/Forward on the Varsity team from his Sophomore through Senior years.

Frank's exploits on the football field at Fallon did not go unnoticed by college scouts. Frank received a full scholarship to play Division I football at Syracuse University, under Coach Ben Schwartzholder. When Frank became the starting QB in his Senior year at Syracuse, he led the Orange Men to a record breaking 63-0 victory against Holy Cross.

Frank graduated from Syracuse with a BA in Education and became a History teacher and football coach at Jordan Elbridge High School in central New York State. He left Jordan Elbridge to earn his Master's Degree at Villanova University. While there, he also worked as the football coach. He

then returned to Jordan Elbridge for his second tenure there, and was recognized twice as Coach of the Year.

In 1985, he took a position as a History Teacher, Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Cicero North Syracuse High School. In 1988, he was then appointed as Vice-Principal and Athletic Director at Onondaga High School.

He went on to become Principal in 1989 at Jefferson Middle School in Jamestown, and in 1993 at North Tonawanda High School.

Wherever Frank was, he was active in his community. For example, Frank was the co-founder of 'The Great Race' in 1977, in Auburn, NY area, which is now in its 42nd year, and is the largest team only run, bike and paddle triathlon in the country.

Frank was diagnosed with kidney cancer in 1997 and fought it until May, 1999. And throughout this time, he possessed the character, strength and courage to meet it head on. And in his last weeks, he believed that it was important to spend that time opening his home to meet with friends and family.

Frank was a leader both on and off the field. He positively influenced thousands of young lives - which was evident in the outpouring of praise and emotion when he passed away. People whose lives he touched over-flowed two churches for his memorial.

Frank was known for his soft and kind demeanor, but it did not disguise his direct and focused style. And, besides his dedication to both the athletic and academic worlds, Frank, by example, instilled in his children, students and teammates the need to be independent and to work to do their best.

Frank had many personal achievements, but his devotion to his students - in the classroom ... or on the football field ... or from the AD's and Principal's offices – will be the legacy he has left for us ... It is a legacy to serve as a model for all.

Frank Ruggiero possessed the traits to meet the criteria for inclusion in the 2019 BFHS/HACI Hall of Fame. We respectfully request your full consideration of our nomination.

Thank you ...

Tom Fatta ('68)
tfatta@lglaw.com
716-864-3355
40 Brantwood Rd., Snyder, NY 14226