



## Port Huron High School Class Of 1963

October 15, 2014

Hello Classmate,

### **NAME IN THE NEWS:**

On October 18, 2014 classmate Teddy Pesano will see his father, Veto Pesano, inducted into the Port Huron Hall of Fame. He is the article that appeared in the Times Herald.



## **Pesano was a trailblazer at Chippewa**

*This is the third in a series profiling the 2014 inductees to the Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame.*

Veto Pesano didn't move to Port Huron until his late 30s, but that didn't stop him from making a large impact on the community.

The late Pesano was a longtime coach at Chippewa Middle School, as well as Port Huron High School, leading football, basketball, baseball and track programs. On Saturday, Pesano will take his place in the Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame.

Pesano will be inducted at the Hall's annual banquet. Other inductees include Ray S. Cornwell Jr., Pat Hunt, Melissa Reynolds, Helene Schultz-Pullsbury, Jim Whymer and the 1980 Port Huron Central track team. United States women's hockey legend Angela Ruggiero will be the guest speaker.

The sold-out banquet begins 5:30 p.m. at the atrium in the St. Clair County Community College student center.

Virginia Irland will be honored with the Recognition Award, while Hannah Jones, Cary Luke, Mackenzie Shell, Matt Thomas, Ravin Randall, Fran Basha, Alexis Wirtz, Amy

Tseng, Maggie Bacheller, the 2013-14 SC4 women's basketball team and the 2013-14 Port Huron Northern girls basketball team will all be given achievement awards.

Pesano, a Boston native, was a standout three-sport athlete at Mansfield High School in Ohio, playing football, basketball and baseball. He would play all three sports at Kentucky Wesleyan College.

He came to Port Huron as the physical education director of the YMCA, a position he held from 1947 until 1950, when he became a teacher and coach at Chippewa.

"It might have been a dream job, except for one little detail," former Pesano student-athlete Harry Atkins wrote in his Hall of Fame profile. "As a brand-new school, Chippewa had no facilities for football, basketball or baseball — the three sports Pesano was hired to coach."

With help from parents and boosters, Pesano was able to get practice and playing fields for the football team built.

"Since there was no gym yet, every basketball practice was a road trip," Atkins wrote. "Pesano arranged first with Marysville and later with Kimball to use their gyms for practice and games. Here, too, money was an issue. Sometimes with humorous results. For several reasons, Chippewa basketball jerseys had numbers only on the back, none on the front.

"Still, Pesano had a vision, and it became a reality in 1955 with the completion of the Wagenseil Gymnasium and Community Center, which became an athletic facility showplace in the Port Huron area."

Pesano moved to the high school when the ninth graders did, and he coached the freshman football and track teams from 1964-66.

"Through it all, the mild-mannered Pesano managed to turn out many athletes who went on to play at high school, college, professional and Olympic levels," Atkins wrote. "Jack Barden, Tanya Green, Bob Wedge and Harry Atkins — all coached by Pesano — already have been enshrined in the Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame. Pesano was a Hall of Fame board member until his death in 1988.

"Sadly for some, Chippewa and Wagenseil have been torn down in recent years, replaced by a retail complex. Yet memories of the wonderful coach who did it all will be preserved for all time by his induction into the Hall."

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<http://www.thetimesherald.com/story/sports/2014/10/13/pesano-trailblazer-chippewa/17230719/>

## **KAFFEE KLATCH:**

Tomorrow, October 16<sup>th</sup>, there is a classmate meeting at Vantage Point starting at 10:00 am. I am hoping that there is large turnout; 1) snowbirds will be heading south or west soon. 2) I would like to discuss plans for our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party. 3) When to have the next meeting as some regulars will be gone?

## **BREAKFAST MEETING:**

Breakfast will be at American Grill on Lapeer Avenue on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 08:30. A regular breakfast meeting is held every third Monday of the month. We have met at the American Grill in the past but we are open to suggestions. Did I mention that the next breakfast meeting would normally be held on November 17<sup>th</sup>... I don't think I can make it. I will be sitting in the woods, hoping to see the buck I did not see during bow season.

## **BREAKFAST MEETING:**

Have you been watching the home page. I have changed it. Now you can see the current Breakfast and Kaffee Klatch meetings. Also I include the obituary notices of the latest passing of a classmate. I have also updated the web page in regard to the planned 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party. I have recently signed a contract with the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Department. I have reserved the date of August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 10 am to 8 pm. So regardless of whether or not we get a caterer, the party will be held. Please reserve the date. I have yet to hear back from Chef Shell. She told me she was increasing the costs for 2015. It is looking like it might cost \$16./person to have it catered and cover the cost of the park and other materials. I am still looking for responses from you! Are you planning on attending? I won't hold anyone responsible for monies until I have a good count and signed a contract with a caterer.

Blessings,  
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