History of Athletics at Magnificat

Magnificat was on the cutting edge of girls' sports since the opening of the school in 1955. Sister Claire Young, H.M., an inaugural member of the Magnificat Athletic Hall of Fame, firmly believed fitness and competition were an integral part of a holistic education. Sister Claire established Magnificat's athletics program, and urged students to celebrate both mind and body. She organized archery and gymnastics programs, founded the Magnificat Athletic Association and invented Speedaway, a game played by students for many years. Sister Claire initiated class to class competitions, which soon became school to school competitions with the cooperation of other Catholic girls' schools in the area.

Following the passage of Title IX in 1972, Sr. Donna Fiore H.M. and other dedicated woman in the Cleveland area established the first citywide league for girls, the Greater Cleveland Catholic Girls Athletic Conference. Magnificat was immediately successful in the three original sports: volleyball, basketball and slow-pitch softball. With the steadfast leadership of former Athletic Directors Gloria Polzer, Therese Chambers Arth, Brigid Kennedy Chambers '95 and Rhonda Rickelman, Magnificat Athletics continued to expand and grow stronger. Today, more than 400 Blue Streak athletes participate and excel in 12 interscholastic sports including 26 teams led by 53 dedicated coaches.

In 2010, Magnificat established the Athletic Hall of Fame to honor athletes and coaches who have exemplified Magnificat's Mission and values both on and off the field. This year's class of inductees is the fifth class, and they join 29 outstanding athletes and coaches in the Magnificat Athletic Hall of Fame.

Welcome to the 2015 Induction Ceremony
for the Magnificat Athletic Hall of Fame

Dear Magnificat Community,

Our Mission calls us to educate young women holistically. Physical fitness has always been an integral part of that holistic education. From Magnificat's earliest days, competition and sport have been encouraged. In fact, Magnificat was among the pioneers of interscholastic competition for young women. Throughout the years, our athletes and coaches have earned countless trophies and awards, and our athletic program has fostered the highest standards of sportsmanship, teamwork, respect and dedication.

Tonight we honor the accomplishments of eight women who exemplify the spirit of Mary's Magnificat, both on and off the field. We gather this evening to celebrate the achievements of former Magnificat Athletic Director Therese Chambers Arth, and Athletes Michelle Bagi Block '00, Becky Kulbago Blue '90, Kelly McIntyre Campbell '91, Laura Delong Hummer '96, Lori Reinart Kroth '93, Eileen Corrigan Pickett '92 and Ellen Fox Spear '89. We will be forever proud of our athletes and coaches who, in maximizing their gifts and talents, have lived out Magnificat's Mission and Values.

On behalf of Magnificat High School, congratulations and thank you to our inductees for representing our school with integrity, dedication and spirit. Your efforts and accomplishments have laid the foundation and traditions for today's athletes, and your legacy will be forever remembered in the Magnificat Athletic Hall of Fame, Ohio's first athletic hall of fame at an all-girls' school.

Thank you to everyone for participating in this Blue Streak tradition honoring our inductees and making this occasion most special.

May we continue to magnify the Lord together,

Sister Helen Jean Novy, H.M.
Interim President