

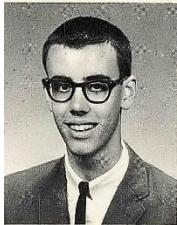
Jon Stevan Wozniak, son of Robert Paul (1919-2012) and Viola (Payak) (1920-2000) Wozniak, was born 9 April 1947, Ohio. Mr. Wozniak was a World War II veteran. Jon graduated in 1965 from the private Catholic



Coach Vigh gives last minute instructions to knights Chuck Strzeszynski, Gary Hahn, Dave Krzyminski and Dan Harbough.

*Coach Vigh Leads Team to
1965 St. Francis*

JAMES D. WOOD



JON S. WOZNAK



1963 St. Francis



school, St. Francis De Sales High School, Toledo, Wood County, Ohio. He then attended and graduated from the University of Toledo, Toledo. In high school and college Jon was an outstanding football player.

Jon married but the marriage was dissolved. After college he returned to St. Francis De Sales to teach and coach, later moving to Stockbridge and then became, for many years, a part of the teaching staff at Okemos High School. He married Carol (Brabon) Grabemeyer, also a teacher at Okemos, in the 1990's

Jon was an outstanding and successful coach at Okemos. He is remembered fondly as "Coach

Woz." Even after retirement Jon continued to coach at Okemos. He and Carol wintered in Florida where Jon succumbed 23 February 2017, Polk County.

The OHS Press

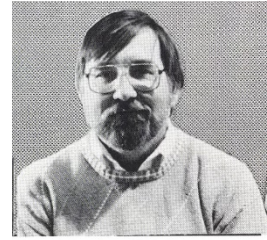
G Sambaer, Staff Reporter

March 21, 2017

Filed under Local News, Spotlight

Thursday, Feb. 23, in Winter Haven, Florida, the Okemos community lost a beloved member.

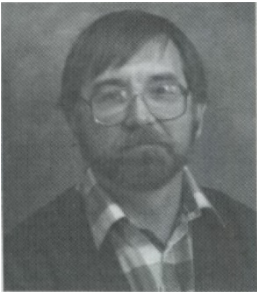
1991 Okemos
Tomahawk



Mr. Wozniak
Specialist

Jon Wozniak began at Okemos in 1986 as a coach and teacher. He retired from teaching in the late 90s, but continued to coach shotput and discus for the track and field team.

1992 Okemos
Tomahawk



Wozniak, also known as Coach Woz, had a very successful coaching career at Okemos. He captured numerous championships at the conference, regional and state level, including in 2002, when he coached both the boys' and girls' discus state champions.

Many students that he worked with while at OHS will remember him fondly.

Wozniak coached Charles Arrington (11) during his freshman and sophomore years. Arrington, along with his throwing teammates, found out the next morning about his passing.

"Everybody on the team knew he was not doing well, but being with him at practice, you couldn't tell," Arrington said.

"His enthusiasm and the way he was showed no weakness, no signs of giving in."

Brian Harrod (CTE) coached alongside Wozniak for 15 years. He said that everyone will miss his fishing stories and his love for the Ohio State Buckeyes.

"I considered him to be a great friend and mentor," Harrod said.

"What I admired most about him was his ability to see potential in everyone."

Arrington not only mentioned what a good coach he was, but also what a great man he was.

"A man of that caliber is rare nowadays and he will be missed," Arrington said.

Okemos coach is track award finalist

Okemos track assistant coach Jon Wozniak is a finalist for a national coach of the year award from the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Wozniak is a longtime shot put and discus coach for the Chieftains. In 2003, Astin Steward and Okezie Aguwa both won Division 1 state titles in the discus. Steward's Division 1 state meet record from that day 154 feet, 9 inches, still stands.

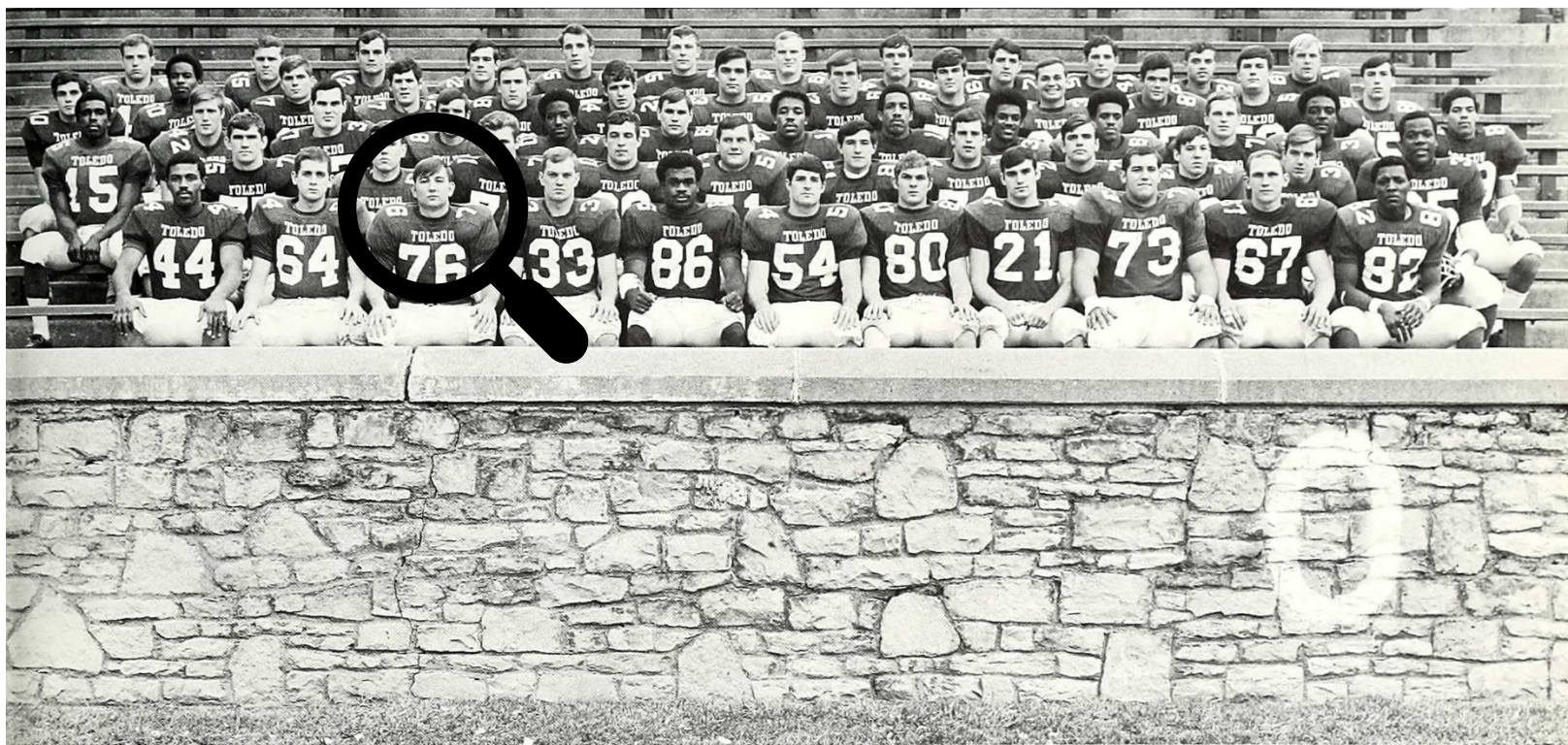
Coaches are nominated by their state coaches associations, with eight national finalists then chosen for each sport. Winners will be named during the NHSACA annual meeting June 21-23.

"The amount of lives he has touched and changed for the better are uncountable."

Harrod also credited the way Coach Wozniak grew the student-athletes he worked with.



"I believe his athletes not only became better throwers, but also they became better people because of the relationship they had with Woz," Harrod said.



OTTOM ROW: Roland Moss, Larry Pressler, Jon Wozniak, Bob Pfefferle, Mel ucker, Dave Hickman, Dennis Tobias, Dave Daniels, Dave Scorziell, Mel liller, John Brisker, **ROW 2:** Don Yasenchak, Gary Dunn, Joe Collins, Herm unwald, Jim Nemeec, Dale Mochko, John Dennis, Jim Rance, Dave Witkowski, ick Seymour, Jim Manuel. **ROW 3:** Steve Jones, Joe Schultheis, Bob Hanu- el, Dave Penn, Howard Pernell, Tom Ibinson, Curtis Johnson, Tony Harris,

Dan Crockett, Ron Powers, Don Hayes, Jim Tyler, Ed Davis. **ROW 4:** John Reese, Leon Campbell, Paul Pape, Tom Duncan, Tom Sauter, Paul Fair, John Zimowski, Bob Caverly, Ken Wilson, Bob Flynn, Paul Storm, Bill Oswolt, Don Hotz. **ROW 5:** Dave Long, Charlie Burgbacher, Lynn Aschliman, Dave Tetzl, Steve Beier, Tony Baltis, Jerry Krugh, Terry Kenneally, Bob Kazlovskas, Ron Gazzo, Ken Crots, Frank Petre.

Wozniak graduated from Toledo St. Francis High School in Ohio where he played football, baseball, basketball and track. He went from high school to the University of Toledo to play football on a full ride scholarship. His football career came to an unfortunate end when he suffered a severe head injury in his last preseason game after signing a contract with the Dallas Cowboys out of college.

Wozniak then moved back to teach and coach at his alma mater, Toledo St. Francis, before moving to Michigan. In Michigan he coached multiple sports at Stockbridge High School before he started at Okemos.

Wozniak was survived by both his wife, Carol, and his son, Andrew. They will plan a memorial service to honor him that will take place sometime this spring.

Okemos Alumni Association was informed of Jon's passing by retired Okemos teacher, Kathleen Marsh.

