



January 7, 2019

On Friday, January 4, 2019 MCHS hosted the first annual Decades Game. Each year Madison plans to honor senior basketball male athletes from past decades during this very special event which will be scheduled for a home game each winter. Alumni, or their living family members, from each class were invited to join us on Friday, as seniors from each decade team were honored.

Former players were offered free game admission and invited to walk on the court for recognition during half-time of the Varsity game. "This idea was something Coach McFarland brought to us and wanted to bring to life as a way to honor Madison's basketball program," shares Joe Bronkella, Athletic Director.

As part of the event each year Madison will celebrate all sports by displaying Cub athletic memorabilia and will invite former athletes or community members to bring in their personal items to display for the evening. "We have found a number of items stored randomly throughout the building as we have been renovating spaces," shares Bronkella. "This is one aspect of the event we are very excited about as we see this particular part growing from year to year as our community understands what we are trying to do to organize, preserve, and share our program history."

As part of this special evening MCHS launched the re-envisioned digital Cub Hall of Fame. Planning for this project has been in the works for some time. "Our current Hall of Fame display has been incomplete for some time due to missing or damaged photos," shares Bronkella. "Our goal was to identify a platform where we could, if necessary, recreate images to make sure all athletes were represented and honored." Implementation on this project began in January 2018 and was a collaborative effort between the Athletic Department, Alumni Coordinator, high school Principal and our Technology team. "Collectively, we had several meetings with in-depth discussions regarding location, platform, and structure and together we determined a digital platform, similar to ones used at other high schools and universities, would be a great option to meet our needs," states Bronkella.

Last Friday's game was very well received by those in attendance with several complimenting the concept and displays located throughout the entrance area of the gym. Following the game, we discovered social media feeds where several former athletes, parents, and community members shared opinions and speculation regarding the Hall of Fame. We would like to take this opportunity to share with you the timeline and facts regarding this project.

- January 2018 - Digital concept was shared with high school Principal, Alumni Coordinator, Technology Coordinator, and Athletic Department to determine feasibility and the vendor selection process began.
- April 2018 - Entered agreement with Slam Dunk Marketing to begin implementation and installation of an interactive digital board display with online capabilities.
- May 2018 - Meetings with Alumni Coordinator began in order to develop a plan to assist with the rollout of the new athletic website, determine replacement for outdated, missing, and

damaged photos in the current display, and communication timeline on future plans for the Hall of Fame.

- June 15, 2018 - MCHS launched the new athletic website with a shared responsibility for Hall of Fame content upload shared between the Athletic Office and Alumni Coordinator.
- August 2018 - Project moves to the Alumni Coordinator to continue to locate photos, remove existing photos, and prepare for a digital transfer. It is during this time the magnitude of damage to existing photos and identification of the missing photos is realized.
- September 2018 - Storage rooms continue to be sorted and additional memorabilia items are discovered which have not been displayed in years.
- October 2018 - Digital board is installed and decision is made to add a Cloud feature which will allow real-time updates, streaming of athletic calendar and Twitter feeds.
- November 2018 - Online and interactive digital Hall of Fame is fully functional. All project collaborators agree it is a great fit and discussions begin about what to do with memorabilia items (NOT related to Hall of Fame) which have been discovered, as well as, Hall of Fame (both damaged and presently displayed) and what could be done with these pieces.
- December 2018 - Specifics of Decades Game begin with Athletic Department, Varsity Coach, and Alumni Coordinator. Tasks were assigned to each individual regarding communication on vision and roll-out plan, invitations to participants, display logistics, and the opportunity for family members to claim non-Hall of Fame related memorabilia located during storage clean up.
- January 2019 - First Decades Game is hosted at Salm Gymnasium honoring senior athletes from the classes of 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999, 2009, and 2019.

“We understand there is a great deal of value and motivation in achievement preservation through traditional photos,” shares Bronkella. “We also realize the importance of a comprehensive archive which includes each athlete who achieved Hall of Fame status. A digital platform allows us to use our library of yearbooks to recreate photos which have been lost over the years, damaged by water, or removed without permission from the current display. We want to be very clear about the vision for this project - it is preservation and expansion. We would like to use the digital images we have created to get printed photographs of those individuals which are missing or have been damaged in order to create a uniform, physical display of photographs which will remain on our wall. We will also work with our MCHS Student Athletic Council to discuss their thoughts and ideas on how we will continue to preserve and display our history.”

As technology continues to bring us closer together, our intent is to bring higher visibility, more detailed individual and team statistical information and photographs, and an updated platform to the traditional Hall of Fame. Currently, as with many schools, you have to visit our physical hallway in order to see the accomplishments of our athletes, we hope to provide a way to share our rich history with a much larger audience. When you visit the high school you can interact with the Hall of Fame to locate your favorite athlete, sports team, or simply enjoy the entire experience to relive the history of Cubs athletics.

The digital Hall of Fame may also be accessed through our [athletic website](#). Be sure to bookmark the site so you can stay up to date on all Madison athletic events. This comprehensive site gives you access to all high school and junior high sporting events, game summaries, photos, and social media feeds from the Athletics Department.

The 2020 Decades Game will honor Seniors from 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020. Once a date is confirmed and plans begin communication will once again be sent to families from our Alumni Coordinator.

As the Hall of Fame project continues to take shape and a plan of action is determined to reunite athletes or their families with memorabilia found in storage we will communicate those plans. If you, or someone you know, has additional photos to include or higher quality photos to replace what is currently available for our digital display, please send the digital image to Alumni Coordinator, Kevin Yancey at kyancey@madison.k12.in.us.